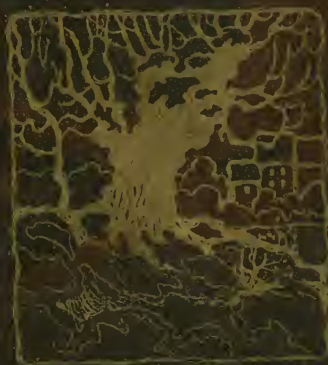


The HISTORY
of
Park Ridge

1841-1936




The HISTORY
of
Park Ridge

1841~1926

Copyright 1926
by
PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH CIRCLE

Printed by
EDISON PRESS
EDISON PARK
CHICAGO





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

<http://archive.org/details/historyofparkrid00park>

CONTENTS

Our "Thank You".....	7
Preface	9
History of Park Ridge.....	11
Beginning of Park Ridge.....	18
Brickton	17
Do You Remember 'Way Back When.....	20
The Post Office.....	21
Indian Cemetery	22
The Old Dutch Mill.....	25
School Boy Pranks.....	26
The Garden Club.....	32
Social Life	29
St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church.....	35
Kindergarten	39
Park Ridge School for Girls.....	40
Public School	41
History of Park Ridge Library.....	45
The Methodist Episcopal Church of Park Ridge.....	47
The Park Ridge Country Club.....	57
Do You Remember 'Way Back When.....	64
The Park Ridge State Bank.....	67
History of the Catholic Church of Park Ridge.....	71
Serious and Frivolous Facts.....	79
Hodge's Park	80
St. Luke's English Lutheran Church.....	83
Baseball — "Doc" Wintersteen	86
Serious and Frivolous Facts.....	86
Chief of Police — Chas. Duwell.....	87
Art and Artists.....	102
Park Ridge Woman's Club	88
The Park Ridge Improvement Club	88
Other Organizations in Park Ridge	88
Community Church	91
Serious and Frivolous Facts.....	103
Do You Remember 'Way Back When.....	103
Electric Hall	104
St. Mary's Episcopal Church.....	107
Serious and Frivolous Facts.....	112
Park Ridge Cadets.....	113
Park Ridge	114

ILLUSTRATIONS

Mrs. Wannenwetch and Mrs. Whitcomb.....	15
First Train	15
Station	16
Main Street	16
Indian Chief Robinson Monument.....	23
Old Dutch Mill.....	24
Uncle Sam Cummings.....	27
Autograph	28
Mrs. S. H. Holbrook.....	33
St. Andrew's German Lutheran Church.....	34
St. Andrew's Parochial School	34
Public School	43
Maine High School	43
Library	44
Johnston's Circle	44
Old Methodist-Episcopal Church.....	55
New Methodist-Episcopal Church.....	55
Park Ridge Country Club	56
Park Ridge State Bank	65-66
Mrs. Amalie Maas	69
St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church.....	75
School	75
The First Church of Christ-Scientist	76
Hodge's Park	81
Campfire Girls' Fountain.....	81
Rev. Walter Spangler.....	82
St. Luke's English Lutheran Church.....	82
Community House	89
Dr. Jordan	90
Community Church	90
Electric Hall	105
St. Mary's Church	106
St. Mary's Mission	106
Why We Come to Park Ridge to Live.....	115

OUR "THANK YOU"

It is the wish of the Committee appointed by the Park Ridge Community Church Circle to express their sincere appreciation to all who have so kindly assisted us in gathering the data necessary to compile this history.

HELEN INSKEEP TOWER.

PREFACE

It is no easy task to make a satisfying selection of what might be interesting history of Park Ridge and reminiscences of its pioneers, but Mrs. R. C. Tower and her committee have made every effort in their selection and were guided by a desire to cover many subjects and experiences.

Some of the stories may be new, others well known to our readers, some we have found it necessary to rewrite, but we think you will find that the original story in each case remains.

ELIZABETH WUSTER DINSE, *Pres.*,

Park Ridge Community Church Circle.

THE HISTORY OF PARK RIDGE

October, 1926

In these days of distinct county and township lines, of accurate surveys and well defined lots, it is hard to visualize our section of the state as it was in 1835—as described in an old paper:

“At the time the Indians left this region Maine Township presented a most attractive and beautiful appearance. The winding course of the river (Des Plaines) running through groves of oak, sugar maple, hackberry, elm and hickory; festoons of wild grape vine or cables of the beautiful bittersweet; shrubbery here and there jutting out into the fertile prairie or following for short distances some of the many little creeks that flowed into the river from the west; stretching on either side for several miles were the undulating plains covered with luxuriant vegetation, the home of countless flocks of wild game, all conspiring to make a scene of surpassing beauty.”

1832 was a notable date for this part of the country, as it was the date that the Chicago treaty with the Indians was made.

Treaty after treaty had been made up to this time, but this treaty of Chicago in 1832 completely extinguished the Indians' title to any territory east of the Mississippi river.

The last Pottawatomi war dance was in August, 1835, in Chicago, whither the Indians had gathered to receive their final payment from the government.

It was after this that pioneers came from New England and New York state with their families, feeling some degree of safety for their loved ones and hoping in a new country to better their conditions which they felt to be cramped in the more thickly settled east. From over the ocean, too, came settlers from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Germany. Sturdy men and women inspired with the hope that they could make a better home here in the fair prairies of the west than the one they had left behind them. They found many difficulties to overcome, many trials to endure; but with stout hearts and willing hands, they conquered the wilderness and became comfortable and prosperous. These early pioneers have passed away but many of their descendants are here, worthy and respected citizens of our community.

The first house known to have been built on the site of the present Park Ridge was put up about 1840 by two men named Warner and Stevens, who took up a claim here from the Government and built their house on the spot now occupied by the Masonic Temple. This was on Rand Road, a newly opened road from Chicago to Rand, afterwards called Des Plaines, and was the only road at that time. It is now the Northwest highway. It was in this first house that Ellen Haskins (Mrs. A. J. Whitcomb) came to live, with her parents.

About 1845 Mancel Talcott, Jr., bought 160 acres of land from the Government and built a house, a story and a half cottage on the corner now occupied by the Park Ridge State Bank. The original house is embodied as part of the structure owned and occupied by Mrs. Wannenwetsch, which originally stood on the corner but has been moved back on the lot. The original cottage is built around so that none of it is visible.

Mrs. Wannenwetsch was born in Park Ridge and has lived here most of her life.

The first brick house was built by Geo. W. Penny on the site of the frame house built by Warner and Stevens and occupied by Ellen Haskins. This brick house was occupied for many years by Mr. Penny as a home. Afterwards it was sold and passed through many hands, for a while belonging to Capt. W. P. Black, a most striking character in our town. This house, however, burned and the present structure was erected by Capt. Black but occupied by Mr. A. C. Becken, who made his home here for some time. At his death the property was sold to the Park Ridge Masonic Building Corporation, and it has recently been renovated and remodeled to serve as the Masonic temple. It is fitting that a public institution occupy this historic site.

Mr. and Mrs. Haskins came to Park Ridge from Vermont in 1843. They lived in the first cottage built in Park Ridge on Rand road (Northwest highway) on the site of the new Masonic Temple.

In 1856 Ellen Haskins was married to A. J. Whitcomb. They went for their wedding journey to Woodstock, Illinois, on the first passenger train to run that far on the Wisconsin division of the Northwestern railroad. It was then as far as the train went.

Everyone knew Ellen Whitcomb, and to know her was to love her. Her hands were ever busy and when there were no urgent demands she would knit or crochet some present for a friend.

She celebrated her fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1906 at Wannewetsch Hall. A host of friends were there with their congratulations. Mr. Whitcomb was a builder and most of the homes of forty years ago were of his building.

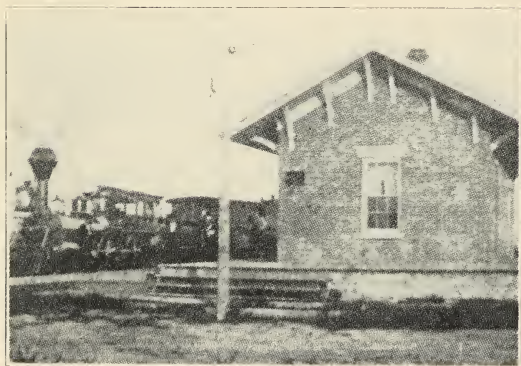
Mr. Whitcomb has passed away, but Ellen Whitcomb is living, and although eighty-six years of age, each year is an added grace and each white hair a halo. She lives with her sister, Mrs. Wannenwetsch.

The railroad was started in 1852. Mr. Whitcomb hauled ties through the winter of that year for the new road. It was known then as the Chicago, St. Paul and Fond du Lac R. R., and began running trains about 1855. Financial difficulties arose; many men who had invested their savings lost all and finally the road was reorganized and known as the Chicago and Northwestern.





*Mrs. Wannenwetsch and Mrs.
Whitcomb in front of Com-
munity House July, 1926*



The First Train to Serve Park Ridge.



*Chicago and Northwestern R. R. Station at Park Ridge
Many Years Ago.*



"Main Street" (Prospect Avenue) Looking North.

This station was built in 1856 on the corner of Prospect avenue by Penny and Meachem, the brickmakers, who also maintained it for ten years for the railroad, in return for which the trains stopped on signal. Samuel Edward Cummings was station agent at this time.

BRICKTON

In 1853 there were only two houses here; in less than seventy-five years, what a change! Two humble homes in a vast farming community, but the nucleus of a thriving town. 1853 was the year that George Penny came to this community looking for clay which would make good red brick.

In 1854 Mr. Penny together with Robert Meachem, opened a brickyard and commenced the business of making pressed brick. The brickyard was located at Meachem avenue and Elm street — the home of Mr. Albert Kraft now occupies this site and the clay was dug from Grand boulevard.

This brick was of excellent quality and sold for from \$18.00 to \$25.00 per thousand in Chicago, in comparison with the much higher priced Philadelphia brick which was \$50.00 to \$75.00 per thousand. The bricks were all hand made and for several years the output was 5,000,000 a year.

With the coming of this industry a town grew in this vicinity which was at first called Pennyville but Mr. Penny being opposed to such a name, it was changed to Brickton. In 1866 Mr. Penny retired from the business and the firm became Meachem and Lockwood.

This community was known as Brickton until 1873, in which year steps were taken to organize a village, which was accomplished. The population at this time according to census was 405. Geo. B. Carpenter was elected president; the trustees were Augustus Dickinson, Joseph Janes, Loring Tenant, Chas. Kobow and W. S. Chittenden; and Samuel E. Cummings was elected clerk.

BEGINNING OF PARK RIDGE

At a Fourth of July meeting the name of Park Ridge was selected out of the many suggested for the new village. Brickton was not considered appropriate, as the brick industry was practically ended, the supply of clay having been exhausted. The name "Brickton" was painted on a large balloon and sent in the air. As it ascended higher and higher and finally disappeared, the town was christened Park Ridge.

At this time there was no sewerage and no water except from wells, but that was very fine. There were a few sidewalks and those were planks placed end to end, one plank in width; except on the most traveled streets which had a width of two planks so pedestrians could pass without having to step in the mud. In wet weather the sidewalks were apt to be afloat, the streets cart tracks, and in wet weather impassable.

The city of Park Ridge is situated at the beginning of the water shed of the Mississippi and St. Lawrence valleys. It is about 15 miles northwest of Chicago. It is supposed to be 120 feet above Lake Michigan and is the highest part of Cook County.

It is accessible by train from Chicago over the Chicago and Northwestern railroad and by automobile or motor bus over the Northwest highway which connects with Milwaukee avenue at Jefferson Park.

Milwaukee avenue is one of the oldest roads about Chicago, being an old Indian trail, and there is evidence of a road — the ancestor, say — of the Northwest highway back in 1840. It was called Rand then and has been known by various names down the years. It was opened up in its present good condition the latter part of 1922 and is a fine thoroughfare from Milwaukee avenue due northwest to the state boundary line of Wisconsin.

Since this good road has been completed there has been much development in the property between Jefferson Park and Park Ridge, and undoubtedly some of the recent development of Park Ridge is due indirectly to this convenient outlet.

Park Ridge remained a village from the time of its incorporation in 1873 until 1910, when it was voted to change to the city form of government which it still has. Dr. A. J. Buchheit was elected the first mayor of the city of Park Ridge.



DO YOU REMEMBER WAY BACK WHEN

Bob and Fred Stagg erected a toboggan slide on the south side of the tracks, charging 10 and 15 cents? It was quite an enterprising business in season.

The electric light plant was in Electric Hall (Fetter's Express building); the lights were shut off at midnight, and if you were out later, you went home in darkness? Above the electric light plant was the hall, used for all large social activities at this time, and the vibration of the dynamo added to the enjoyment — so it is said.

The Kaleidoscope Club was organized for the purpose of providing the interior finishing for Community Church? Many were the good times had in doing it.

The railroad had but a single track and the train leaving Park Ridge at 6 A. M. returned from Chicago at 4 P. M.; the train leaving at 9 A. M. returned at 7 P. M.? That was all, just four trains daily.

When our city park had a small white fence — just high enough for lovers to sit on?

When the only known delivery wagon was operated by the two Stagg boys — ages about ten — delivery charges five and ten cents?

When we carried the old-fashioned barn lantern to the church socials?

When as a child one stood on the depot platform and could tell the names of each person alighting?

THE POST OFFICE

The first post office in Maine Township was opened in 1837 on the west side of the Des Plaines river on what is now Center street. The first postmaster was Captain Mancell Talcott and mail came to this humble postal station once a week. Captain Talcott came from New York in 1836 and his first commission was dated January 24, 1837. This was less than six years after the Chicago Post Office was established. This was the first post office in Cook County outside of Chicago and was called Chamblee. Before this, the citizens of the community had their mail addressed to Chicago and whenever neighbors drove into the city they got the mail for all in their vicinity.

The following is the address of a letter written from Detroit by Dr. Meachem to his wife in 1837:

MRS. REBECCA MEACHEM

Desplains

Chicago P. Office

Illinois

Across the letter was the following. Message: "P. master Chicago will please forward this by any of my neighbors and oblige his friend, S. Meachem."

Years later the Park Ridge Post Office was in the general store of Kobow and Brunst. It remained there for some time as one was a Republican and one a Democrat, so, whichever party won the election, the post office was the same and folks had a hard time remembering who was postmaster.

INDIAN CEMETERY

An interesting historical spot near Park Ridge is the Indian Cemetery, situated on the East River road, a short distance off of Higgins road. Tourists attention is called to it by signs placed by County Commissioner Cermak.

In this cemetery lies the remains of Alexander Robinson, chief of the Chippawa, Pottawottomie and Ottawa nations of Indians, who departed this life in 1872 at the age of 110 years.

He befriended the white settlers at the time of the massacre of Fort Dearborn and, in recognition of his services, he was given 1200 acres of land by the state. His former home is west of the cemetery and his daughter, Mrs. Mary Regan, still makes her home there; but she is very old and feeble at the present writing. Besides the old chief, his wife and others of his family lie buried close by.







Old Dutch Mill.

THE OLD DUTCH MILL

Another interesting and picturesque place nearby is the old Dutch mill.

It can be seen from the West River road between Higgins road and Irving Park boulevard. It is on a small road branching from the River road. The material for this mill was imported from Holland and erected on the farm. Miss Mary Perkins remembers her father taking grist to this mill for grinding. It is not in use now but remains a quaint figure on the landscape.

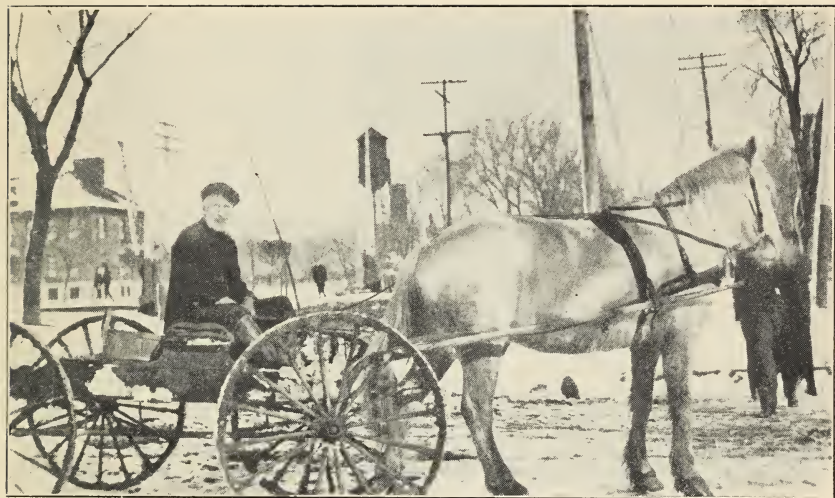


Mrs. C. E. Stebbings in her inimitable way says, "no Charleston stepper today could surpass Sandy Chittenden when he snapped into the Virginia Reel or Money Musk.

SCHOOL BOY PRANKS

In about 1882 or 1883 Albert Stebbings, Arthur Tunsberg, John Calif, John Cameron and Harold Thompkins, led by Albert Becker one Saturday during summer vacation decided to go in swimming in the clay hole on Grand boulevard. They had been warned not to swim there as there were several houses near and the neighbors were complaining of the small boys sans clothes popping about in the clay hole, nevertheless after the manner of small boys the world over they thought they would chance it. Along came Mr. Haussman (for years janitor at the Park Ridge public school), caught them in a compromising state of attire and (he must have had help) tucked them all in the "cooler" for the night. The "cooler" or town jail was an old barn, plus some iron bars, on Elm street.

You can imagine the consternation in these homes when Al and Johnny, etc., didn't return from the store and all the rest of the small boys in town hastened to impart the bad news. The parents all decided to let the boys see it through and the next morning six chastened little boys were taken before Judge Sam Cummings at the "depot," fined a dollar and costs, which they had to work out for their fathers. Most of them received more chastisement at home and at school a lecture from the principal, Mr. Schroeder. The town was quite sure they would end in Joliet, but so far none of them have — no indeed, fathers of families and solid citizens.



*"Uncle" Sam Cummings and his horse, for years a familiar sight
about Park Ridge.*

"Let all the years abound in pure endeavor!
To noble things - not dream them all day long!
So shall thou make life, death, and this the bright form
One grand, sure song!"
Be true to God! thou canst not then be false
unto thyself, nor ought but true to all thy
fellow-men.
Park Ridge, Feb. 24, 1884.

Arthur

Whatever you do do it with thy
might, and before you go ahead
be sure that you are right.

March 14, 1884.

H. Dickinson

Excerpts from an autograph album—the property of Mrs. Arthur Tansberg.

W. A. Black

SOCIAL LIFE

1860-1870

There were, of course, no country clubs, card clubs nor woman's clubs but hospitality was one of the cardinal virtues. There was a great deal more visiting then than now. A wagon load of folks would drive up, be welcomed heartily by the housemother and all the children. Then such a bustling about the kitchen as there would be, and such a bountiful supper as would be set out! The women visitors would help in the kitchen in the meantime, enjoying a pleasant chat about the children, the chickens and how much the last hogs weighed that they had packed down for the winter, and maybe a spice of gossip, too. The men went to the barn to put up the team and compare notes with the farmer on the state of the crops, price of corn, and all things of interest to them in their daily life.

After a bountiful early supper, heartily enjoyed by all, the horses would be put to the wagon and amid a chorus of "Good-bye" and "Come again soon," the visitors would drive home in the gathering dusk.

Then the dances they had! For miles around word would go out that the Blanks were giving a party. Everybody would go. The mothers wrapped the babies up warmly and all piled into the sleigh and drove over the snowy roads. When they arrived at their destination, the babies were fed and put to bed and soon were fast asleep, for they were all good babies in those days. Then the mothers were free for the dancing. Such fun as they had! Their costumes were not designed by Worth and they did not have cotillions with expensive favors. They did have a good fiddler who could play "Money Musk," "Virginia Reel" and the "Lancers," and "first couple forward and back" and "swing your partners" rang out above the sound of tripping feet. A big supper was served after midnight, then more dancing until the early hours.

In those early days the only light in the houses on the long winter evenings were candles, each housewife making the supply for her household. They raised sugar cane and made sorghum, not a very good molasses, for their buckwheat cakes.

The surrounding woods and prairies abounded with quail, prairie chicken and rabbits and many good game dinners did these hardy pioneers enjoy.

In the spring they picked buckets of wild strawberries and in the fall bags of nuts.

Spelling matches, singing school and attendance at Good Templars Lodge were indulged in by the youth of this vicinity — these events took place at Dutchman's Point, as Niles was then called.

1875-1890

The George B. Carpenters resided in Park Ridge at this period of its history and they heartily sponsored all progressive undertakings.

Mrs. Carpenter was a brilliant musician and a woman of much education and culture, at the same time unostentatious, with broad human sympathies — a wonderful friend, a helpful neighbor and an indispensable social factor in this unpretentious town. She and Mr. Holbrook and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Davis made up a quartette about 1886 that did much to enliven affairs of a festive nature. Mr. Davis says they sang a new roof on the church, so their entertainment had a practical turn, too.

There were charades and plays, for the most part given in the church, and their literary society, of men and women, was the chautauqua. This was an evening affair and met fortnightly in the hotel, which was on the site of the present Gillick block.

This was the horse and buggy age and there were drives, excursions, picnics to the river or to Robbs' Park (the Country Club now), church sociables, and more church weddings than now.

At a picnic at Ehrhardt's Grove Mrs. Carpenter went to the farmer to borrow a table, and as she spoke to them in German, nothing must do but the whole family would talk with her, so pleased were they to have a stranger speak their language.

Sleighing parties were popular but then as now the weather could not be counted on as the snow would leave in a hurry. One sleighing party was planned, an oyster supper ordered at Arlington Heights, and although the thermometer went to 13° below zero, the party went ahead as planned, and suffered no ill consequence.

The hotel was first operated by the Snoads, afterwards by the Whitlocks. Its parlors were a gathering place for social occasions and it housed the teachers. It took the place of a hall. It was purchased by the Swedish Old People's Society for the Old People's Home.

In 1908 Mr. Gillick bought the property and just before it was wrecked, about 1913, a poultry show was held in it which would compare favorably with the Coliseum exhibits.

The early Garden Club was the flower mission. It was an incentive to plant annuals as every Wednesday morning the members each filled a market basket with flowers and took it to the express office. The express company delivered the baskets to the Flower Mission in Chicago for free distribution to hospitals.

A magazine club also was in operation in those days — each member subscribing for a specific magazine — the magazines circulating and returning to the subscriber. In this way sans libraries, cut off from easy access to Chicago (there were not many trains even as late as 1890) the women of Park Ridge managed always to keep abreast of the times.





Mrs. S. H. Holbrook has long been known in our community. No helpful task is too great or small for her hand. She has served in many ways our town and as a lover of flowers has meant much to Park Ridge in her efforts to beautify our city.



*St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod).
Rev. H. C. Richter, Pastor.*



One of the parochial schools of Park Ridge is that of St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church. This modern building is located at West Park Avenue and West Elm Street, adjacent to the Church.

ST. ANDREW'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Missouri Synod)

N. Park Ave. and W. Elm St., Park Ridge, Illinois

Seventeen years ago a little band of men organized themselves into the St. Andrew's Ev. Lutheran congregation. Small was their number and great was their task, but trusting in the Lord, they went to work with a will, and the Lord withheld not His blessing. The following men attended this memorable meeting, held June 27, 1909, and signed the constitution of the newly organized congregation: Julius Kunke, Martin Stahmer, Fred Guelzow, Theodore Juern, Fred Juern, William Hasemann, Sr., Carl Maas, H. F. Dittbrenner, Edward Wilshak, John Diesness, Louis Peters, and Frederick Schroeder. Three of these men have since passed to eternal rest, namely, Julius Kunke, Carl Maas, and Louis Peters.

The organization of the new church was accomplished in a manner which was most gratifying to every one present. The meeting showed that conservative Lutheranism was very much alive in our community, and that the organizers of this church still cherished purity of doctrine and practice.

The first officers of the congregation were: Martin Stahmer, chairman; H. F. Dittbrenner, Wm. Hasemann, deacons; Louis Peters, John Diesness, trustees; Fred Schroeder, treasurer and Julius Kunke, recording secretary.

Divine services were held in the public school building on Grant place, a room being offered unto the congregation by the school board, which offer was joyfully accepted. The Rev. H. Lewerenz, of Des Plaines, conducted the services, until a call was extended to the Rev. Paul Guelzow, of Oklahoma, who was solemnly installed Sunday, February 6, 1910.

The following months were months of growth and expansion, more and more souls being added to the membership roll. It was soon apparent that more suitable quarters must be acquired, as divine services were being attended by ever larger numbers of worshippers in spite of the fact that the room in which the congregation worshipped presented anything but a churchly appearance. In a meeting held May 1, 1910, St. Andrew's resolved to buy three lots on the corner of N. Park avenue and W. Elm street. \$1500 was paid for this so ideally situated property. In a meeting on June 5, 1910, it was decided to build a church as soon as possible. In the spring of the year 1911 work was begun and the new church was formally dedicated Sunday, Sept. 17, 1911.

A year and a half later the Rev. Paul Guelzow resigned and a call was extended to the Rev. Henry C. Richter of Chicago, Illinois. He accepted and was installed as pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Sunday, July 6, 1913. The Rev. Henry C. Richter is still directing the work of St. Andrew's, being the oldest pastor in Park Ridge in point of service.

Now followed a period of steady growth for St. Andrew's. Rapid advancement was made in all departments. As the field was large, the pastor was obliged to deputize some of the work. Accordingly a number of societies were organized for the purpose of assisting the pastor in the work of the church.

A Ladies' Auxiliary was organized and this society has been a real blessing to the congregation from the very start. It has grown large during the years of its existence and now counts about 70 members. A Young People's society was also organized, and this organization has been extremely helpful in keeping the young people within the church.

Then there is the choir, which, under the able leadership of its director, Mr. F. J. Uttech, has made wonderful progress, and since its organization has been serving the congregation regularly and efficiently, beautifying the church services and making them more impressive. Other organizations within St. Andrew's are the Junior league, the Bunco club, the Quilting club and the Bowling league, all working for the benefit of St. Andrew's.

Realizing its obligations toward the children, St. Andrew's, since its foundation, has also maintained a parish school, first and foremost, for the purpose of giving the children a thorough religious education. It believes that this is "The One Thing Needful," the most important thing of all. But though it gives first place to religion, the Lutheran parish school does not neglect the secular branches of study. Luther realized and the Lutheran church realizes the importance and necessity of the development of the mental and physical faculties of man in order to make him an efficient member of the church and a useful citizen of the state. Every individual must develop and train to their fullest extent his powers and faculties, which as a faithful steward he is to use in the service of God and for the benefit of his fellowman, that the world's work may be done ever more perfectly. St. Andrew's, accordingly, maintains an eight grade accredited school and has at great sacrifice erected a beautiful and modern school building, complete and adequate in every respect. Two experienced and trained men direct the work of the school, Mr. F. J. Priehs and Mr. F. J. Uttech. At present there is an enrollment of 81 scholars.

Another organization within the church, aiming to supply the church with an intelligent, active and professing Christian membership, and having the one and sole purpose: "To Save Souls," is the Sunday school. Under the direction of Mr. F. J. Priehs, superintendent, and Messrs. B. J. Bruns, H. Asher, and A. Sommer, the Sunday School Board, the Sunday school is enjoying a healthful and substantial growth.

According to a report, issued January, 1926, St. Andrew's has an investment in property amounting to \$76,481.13. St. Andrew's has an enrollment of 91 voting members, about 600 souls, and about 375 communicants.

In conclusion, we might state that St. Andrew's has always considered it a privilege indeed to carry on its work in the city of Park Ridge, a city free from the vicious and degrading elements so common in the metropolitan centers, a city where companionship and good fellowship walk hand in hand, a city where there is freedom of worship, the contentment of sincere religion and the joy of genuine Christian endeavor.

SOLI DEO GLORIA.

KINDERGARTEN

As early as 1891 Park Ridge had a kindergarten, Mrs. Stansbury having a class in her home on North Prospect avenue. Other pioneers in the work were Miss Stewart, Miss McNally, Mrs. Irick, Miss Anna Holbrook and Miss Wideman. Miss Anna Holbrook taught continuously from 1902 until 1920, or at least a part of each year. Frequently she was unable to keep the work going in January and February.

Others to carry on later were Mrs. Strong, Miss Frances Holbrook, Miss Gilbertson and Mrs. Guard.

The Georgia Guard kindergarten was founded in 1924. Representatives from eight women's organizations form a board to manage the work. Miss Mattison was the first teacher selected, and the school carried on the season of 1924-25 in Mary Wilson house. Miss Grace Baird was selected as principal for the season 1925-26, the session being held in Jorgeson Hall.

Season 1926-27 two units were provided, one group meeting in the Community church, with Miss Gage, and the other group meeting in Jorgeson Hall with Miss Pike.

PARK RIDGE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The Park Ridge School for Girls was founded in 1877 and known as the Illinois Industrial School and was located in Evanston. It is a school for dependent girls.

Mr. Talcott, a former director, gave a forty-acre farm at Park Ridge to establish a farm school and home, and when the Evanston location became inadequate in 1909 the school was moved to the site at the north end of Park Ridge which it now occupies. It is a fine school, conducted on the cottage plan, and the girls committed to its care receive a splendid home and proper training.

PUBLIC SCHOOL

The first school in this school district was a small building near the river. The first school house in Park Ridge is said to have been on the prairie somewhere near the site of St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum. The next school was built on Mr. Paine's farm on the Niles road. Mr. Paine was Mrs. Chas. Stebbing's father. From there it was moved to the site of the town hall. This place was called "the corners" and the school building was used for a meeting place of the people for miles around. Town meetings and church services were held there. The school house was then moved to the site of the old brick school house on Grant place. In 1867 it was decided to build a new school of brick on that lot and the old building was again moved to 325 Center street. It has been remodeled considerably and is at present occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Krehbiel, both artists, as their home and studio. They had such a habit of moving those days that one of the trustees suggested that the school house be put on wheels.

This brick building of two rooms was completed in 1870, and was used as a school for many years. In 1902 the classes of the Maine Township high school were held in this building pending the completion of the building in Des Plaines. Prior to this, students from Park Ridge had to attend high school in Jefferson Park.

The cornerstone of the present school building facing the railroad station was laid in 1893. The original holding did not include all the block. It was in approximately 1900 that the corner property of Blacksmith Miller was bought. Additions were made to this building in 1921. In 1900 also, property was purchased in Edison Park for a school building, which was completed in the spring of 1907.

At that time Edison Park was in the Park Ridge school district, but later it was annexed to Chicago.

A part of the Grant place school has been condemned as unfit for school purposes in May, 1926, and as the schools are overcrowded Park Ridge is now to venture further with her school building.



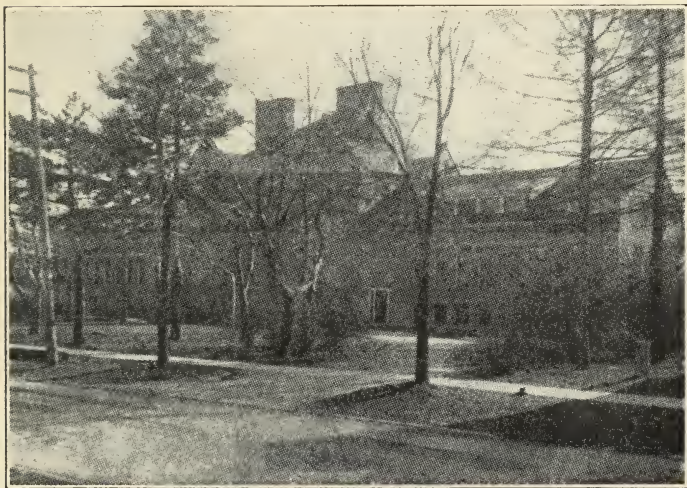
DO YOU REMEMBER WAY BACK WHEN—

The corner of the school grounds now occupied by the band-stand was covered by an old country blacksmith's shop, with the usual assortment of old wagons, plows, etc.; blacksmith Miller, as he was called, refused to sell his property, but after his death it was purchased by the school board for \$6,000.00, for a high school site?

This purchase was the beginning of all the subsequent dispute about the high school. Edison Park needed a grammar school and resented this \$6,000.00 expenditure enough to vote with Des Plaines to locate the township high school in the latter town.



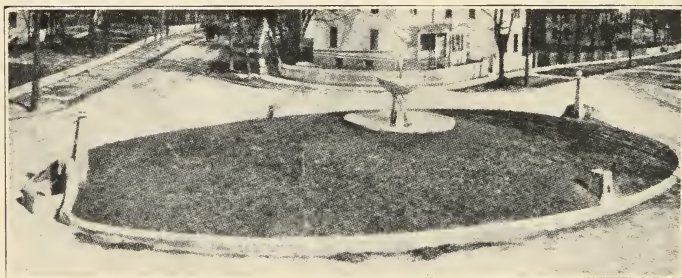
*Public School of Park Ridge. Original Building 1893.
Additions in Foreground 1921.*



*Maine Township High School, Des Plaines, Ill., has been attended
by Park Ridge students since November, 1902.*



Park Ridge Library, of which Park Ridge is proud.



Johnston's Circle—for many years a familiar sight in Park Ridge. This is the highest point in Cook County. This little plot had to be dispensed with when the Northwest Highway was cut through.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE PARK RIDGE LIBRARY

To Mrs. Laura A. Root, Mrs. Clara E. Miller, Mrs. Clara A. Boening, Mrs. Grace A. Becken and Mrs. Mildred H. Davis, belongs the honor of founding the Park Ridge library.

The first regular board meeting was formed on June 10, 1910, at the home of Mrs. J. H. Collins. Mr. Robert Baird presided and Mrs. Miller was made treasurer and Mrs. Boening was made secretary. Mrs. Boening was instructed to write to Mr. Andrew Carnegie for funds with which to erect a library building, also to write to the City Clerk of Park Ridge to send her notification of their appointment as members of the Library board. At this time, a lot on the corner of North Prospect and Grant place was owned by the board and the adjoining lot was bought for four hundred and fifty dollars, all assessments paid.

Mr. Carnegie gave the sum of five thousand dollars for a building, but this was found inadequate and after further correspondence, Mr. Carnegie increased the amount to seventy-five hundred dollars. During this year, a room was obtained over Snyder and Leeds store, in the building that stands next to the Library on Park avenue, for which a rental of five dollars a month was paid. The library was kept open by volunteer service.

By November 4, 1912, a building committee, consisting of Mr. John Paulding, Mr. J. A. Schulkins, sr., and Mr. J. W. Pattison, was appointed and Mr. Paulding was able to secure as architects Pond & Pond. To Mr. Paulding, more than any one else, Park Ridge owes its fine home-like library. At this time, the lots owned by the library were exchanged for the lot on which the library now stands at the corner of Northwest Highway and Prospect. Mr. George Burry, city attorney, had charge of the transfer.

On May 5, 1913, a gift of a thousand volumes was presented by the George B. Carpenter estate and in honor of this gift the south room was named the George B. Carpenter room. Mrs. Walter M. Clute designed the book plate for these books, and these were printed by Mr. J. W. Reed. In addition to the Carpenter books, the Congregational Church gave two hundred and fifty volumes, Miss Penny one hundred and thirty-two, Mr. Stewart Walpole, two hundred, also many smaller donations were received.

A picture by Mr. Walter Marshall Clute, entitled "Afternoon Tea," was presented to the library by the Park Ridge Improvement Association. In 1923, friends of Mr. James W. Pattison likewise presented his picture, "By the Riverside," to the library in his memory and it was recently exchanged for a larger picture by Mr. Pattison, entitled "The Quiet Hour." Mr. John Suster, of Des Plaines, a life long friend of Mr. Pattison donated the frame for this picture. For the fine panel of Abraham Lincoln, we are indebted to Mr. F. C. Jorgeson and the War Memorial, over the fire-place was made by Mr. John Paulding and presented by the citizens of Park Ridge.

In December, 1924, at the suggestion of Mr. A. W. Cavanaugh, then president, an extension committee was formed to procure extra funds for the necessary juvenile and reference books, also to publish a catalogue. The committee consisted of the Board of Members, together with representatives of the three Women's clubs and as a result of their drive over six hundred books have been added to the library and the first catalogue printed.

1st Librarian—Ruth Colman.

2nd Librarian—Frances Holbrook.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF PARK RIDGE

At a meeting held at Brickton, Illinois, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, "made up of the members of the different religious societies, and called together to consult about building a house of worship——"

In quaint, old-fashioned writing, in a battered old calf-bound record book begins the history of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Park Ridge, Illinois.

"After taking up the matter pretty thoroughly," continues this simple history, "it was finally agreed that the several churches could not unite in building a union house, so the meeting adjourned without further action."

But the spirit that impelled that first attempt to erect a house of God in this little prairie village, then known as Brickton Station, could not be stilled. Those who called themselves Methodists must have a house of worship, where they might bow their heads with those who visioned God as they visioned Him, and a few months later, on October 7 of that same year, the trustees of the church met again. This time they determined to go ahead and build themselves a church at Brickton, and that subscriptions be taken, payable quarterly, to carry out the work.

"A plan and specifications for a brick church together with a lot upon which to build it having been presented to the society were accepted, and although the estimated cost was about six thousand dollars the trustees resolved to try and erect it." That was a lot of money in those days.

By April of 1857, Brother Bundock, who was then the preacher in charge, reported that he had four thousand dollars in good subscriptions, and the contract for this goodly brick church was let — to Messrs. Chittendon & Gordon for carpenter work, joining and painting; to Messrs. Wilton & Victor the contract for masonry; to Penny and Meacham for the brick. The ground was broken, the basement completed, and then consternation. The quarterly payments on subscriptions would not be due in time to make the payments on the contract. Rumors of hard times were in the air — the great panic of 1857 reached the inland settlement of Brickton. And work on the church was discontinued.

For two years, until well into 1859, services were held regularly in the basement of the half finished church, for a little group of worshippers that seldom aggregated more than seventy-five people.

“As it neared completion,” goes on the old, faded record, “another want unprovided for presented itself. We lacked the means to furnish the finished building, and how to raise it did not readily present itself. . . . It was decided that we would get up an excursion to Crystal Lake in the cars, inviting the inhabitants of the several villages to join us, offering them the ride at a very low rate in full remuneration for the amount paid for the ticket. The plan was entered upon with zeal and resulted very successfully, some two hundred and thirty-seven and 88/100 dollars being the net proceeds after paying all expenses.

"Short work was made of getting the house ready for dedication which took place on the last Sabbath in October, 1859, Bishop Mathew Simpson preaching the dedication sermon."

This sturdy edifice served for two generations as the place of worship for those of Methodist faith from Brickton, Edison Park, Norwood Park, Jefferson Park, even as far as Irving Park. A beloved landmark, its exterior remained unchanged until the erection of the present beautiful church building in 1925.

The actual written record begins four years later, with the proceedings of the fourth quarterly meeting of the Brickton circuit, Rock River conference, which met at the Brickton Methodist Episcopal Church August 18, 1860. Here is that little group of men, E. M. Boring, presiding elder; J. T. Hanna, preacher in charge; Bros. Wheadon, Drake, Irish and Waters, local preachers; Bro. Wentworth, exhorter; Bros. Meacham, Penny and Outhet, stewards; and Whitcomb and Chittendon, leaders. These same names are woven through the early history of the settlement of Brickton Station, its schools, its social and its business life. Then, as today, the leaders in church work are the leaders in civic work in Park Ridge.

In those days, when the preacher rode the circuit from charge to charge, the presiding elders and the local or lay pastors were endowed with the prerogative of baptism, and the first baptism on that old, faded record is that of little Anne H. Holton, daughter of Calvin and Susan Holton, born April 17, 1859, baptised, Sept. 3, 1860, by A. Brown, no doubt one of those early circuit riders.

On September 8, 1861, Francis Paine was baptized by Rev. Hanna, and on January 5, 1862, she was united in marriage to Evan Jones, the first bride to be entered in this quaint old book. Mrs. Jones still lives in Park Ridge, and is still a member of this church, and interestingly enough, her daughter, Mrs. Charlotte Morey, worked as zealously to raise the funds for the present new church as her mother must have worked to raise the money to build that first one. The second school house built in the district stood on the farm of Mrs. Jones' father, Charles Paine, so these early records say.

In 1860, the church had a membership of 72.

In the records for 1863, we learn "Within the bounds of the charge there are three Sunday schools and all in flourishing condition. The school at Niles is conducted principally by the ladies, there being no gentlemen to assist, and the interest is well sustained and increasing." Another indication that the Civil war had touched the community.

In 1871, Brickton Station was incorporated into the Village of Park Ridge, and the Brickton "charge" of the Rock River conference became the First M. E. Church of Park Ridge.

Its history is woven into the life stories of the men and women who have stood, shoulder to shoulder, in its support, when in the late eighties appears the name of F. C. Jorgeson, who for more than thirty years was the superintendent of its Sabbath school, a name that stands out like a beacon, unflinching in time of turbulence, as in time of peace.

Reverend John Westley Cutler was one of the first of the resident pastors, a student preacher.

Men and women who are graying now recall Rev. Jacob Hartman, who followed him — the kindly, genial old minister whose gentle counsel was a guide and inspiration in their youth.

W. R. Goodwin, one of the most outstanding ministers ever assigned to the Park Ridge Church, next appears. He served the church for one brief year, 1888-1889.

Rev. J. B. Lucas served the congregation for the year 1889-1890 and was followed by Rev. John C. Foster, who may be called our literary minister. The interest in books and reading which he fostered still leaves its mark upon the community.

From 1892 to 1895, Rev. R. H. Dolliver, a brother of the famous U. S. Senator Dolliver of Iowa served the Park Ridge congregation. Rev. Dolliver's father was also a minister and both he and the senator often visited the parish. The elder Dolliver is remembered as a one-legged man with a great booming voice that compelled pulpit attention. The Dollivers were Virginians, with a rare charm, and gift for leadership which was an ever present source of inspiration to the congregation. Mrs. Dolliver is still remembered as a dynamo of energy, a wonderful worker and builder for her church.

The Dollivers were followed by Rev. A. C. Wakeman, the "mechanical pastor." With zest and enthusiasm, Rev. Wakeman laid aside the Book to take up the hammer and saw, and himself helped to build the new parsonage.

At the end of his second year of service, in 1897, came Reverend J. M. Wheaton, who drove into Park Ridge from his previous charges behind a spanking team of horses. He had a large family of happy youngsters, and from his people, for whom the town of Wheaton is named, he inherited the means to live more opulently than most ministers of the faith.

Rev. J. B. McGuffin, a sturdy Scotsman, next served the church from 1899 to 1902. Stern and strict in his religion, the true son of his Scotch Presbyterian antecedents, he was still beloved and revered by his Methodist congregation.

Rev. R. H. Pate filled the pulpit for a longer period of time than any other minister, serving for the full five years allowed him by the conference, from 1902 to 1907, and will be remembered long for his splendid work.

From 1907 to 1910, the Park Ridge congregation was led by Rev. C. W. Thornton, a well loved pastor, who is now retired.

It was during his regime that the Park Ridge Methodist Church celebrated its golden jubilee.

October 10 to 13, 1909, will remain long in the memory of those who were privileged to participate in this great home-coming, the fiftieth birthday of the church.

This three-day celebration brought back four of its former pastors, Rev. Wheaton, Rev. Pate, Rev. Smith and Rev. Hartman.

The climax of the celebration was the jubilee banquet on October 13, bringing together many old time members and friends of the church.

Mrs. S. E. Cummings was in charge of the program. The speakers were Adam C. Orr, S. E. Cummings, Z. D. Root, Evan Jones and Mrs. Chittenden.

In the fall of 1910 Rev. John L. Dickson became the resident pastor and served until the fall of 1914. It was during his pastorate and largely through his influence that, on January first, 1913, the Methodist and Congregational churches were federated and continued to worship as one for four years. Rev. Dickson was a Yale graduate and a good preacher.

Next came Rev. Albertus Perry, war-time preacher, who inherited the difficult task of serving the federated churches. Mr. Perry succeeded in handling the details of the unavoidable dissolution of the federation in so tactful a manner that the two organizations parted with good feeling.

When the federation was dissolved the Methodist church found itself confronted with disorganization; its membership had dwindled. Its choir and staff of Sunday school teachers were depleted, its income had suffered by the experiment. Valiantly its membership shouldered the burden and at the end of the year Rev. Perry saw his roster of membership restored to its old strength. The spirit of those first pioneers still hovered over the congregation as it does today.

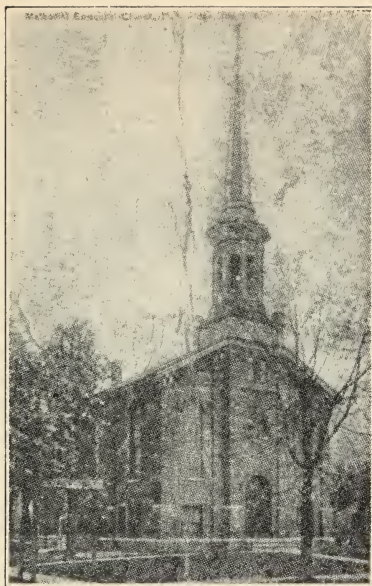
Rev. J. F. Jeness, a missionary preacher from Buenos Aires, was assigned here in October, 1918, and after serving one year returned to his missionary work in the south. Rev. George Gable followed him and filled the pulpit for a like term. Besides his pastoral work, Rev. Gable played the cornet in the city band and took a keen interest in the musical life of the community.

In October, 1920, Thomas P. Brannum became pastor of the charge; he served for four eventful years. Besides the good work in his own church in which his wife had a large share, Mr. Brannum's pastorate was marked by a fine spirit of co-operation with the other churches of the town, and the organization of the Community council and the Community chest is very largely due to his influence. Also, during this time, the old, historic church building which has stood for more than half a century, gave way to the new and beautiful, one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollar structure that now houses the numerous activities of the congregation. In November, 1923, the campaign for the building fund was launched. The first

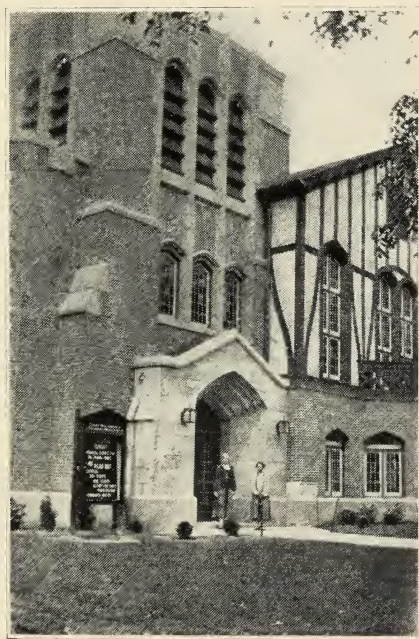
sod for the new building was turned when F. C. Jorgeson, unfailing friend of the congregation, doubled the first twenty thousand dollars raised with his own check for a like amount, making the sum necessary before contracts could be let and actual building started.

The week beginning April twelfth, 1925, marked the services of dedication of the new building; a tribute to the faith, the courage and the unfailing loyalty of the pastor and the congregation. The old building was, however, not deserted, for in the building plans, it was remodeled and made into the "F. C. Jorgeson Assembly Hall," a tribute to the man who, for a lifetime has given so generously of his time, his spirit, and his worldly goods to the welfare of the church and the community that he loves.

Today the Park Ridge Methodist church is presided over by the Rev. Stuart B. Edmondson, one of the strongest community leaders who has ever filled its pulpit. The church now claims a membership of four hundred and fifty, and a Sabbath school enrollment of four hundred and twenty. It holds an enviable record of service to its own members and to the community of which it has been so intimately a part for nearly seventy years.



*Old Methodist-Episcopal Church
for many years the church home of
the Methodists of Park Ridge.*



The New Methodist Church and Jorgeson Hall.



The former home of the Park Ridge Country Club, supplanted by the new, magnificent building.



THE PARK RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB

Twenty years ago — to be exact, in 1906 and 1907 — there existed in the city of Park Ridge a pleasure and tennis club, the tennis club having been the outgrowth of the desire for outdoor sport, but the game of tennis is not for any but the youthful, so the members of this dance and tennis club decided to “take up golf” and leased the Robb farm from the then owner, Mrs. Eliza J. Bell, the Robb farm lying just west of Prospect avenue and north of Sibley avenue in the city of Park Ridge, and having along the eastern border on Prospect avenue an exceedingly beautiful little woods.

This farm was leased for the sum of five hundred dollars per year, and the business of transforming a cornfield into a golf course was started by some of the husky members of the tennis club cutting corn stalks and clearing and leveling the field.

The golf “bug” is infectious, and as the members of the tennis club became infected with the “bug,” as do all who take up this wonderfully wholesome outdoor game, they conceived the idea of owning the Robb farm and organizing and building a real golf club and course, and with this in view under the leadership of: E. E. Emerich, president; S. J. Knowles, vice-president; C. F. Biggert, secretary, and G. D. Stebbings, treasurer, a special meeting of the club members was called on November 16th, 1911, and it was decided to buy the site of the present Park Ridge Country Club at three hundred dollars an acre.

The present club was duly organized and incorporated and a charter applied for and obtained, and the above named were the original officers of the Park Ridge Country Club, which has grown and thrived through twenty years of existence, and today is known throughout the Chicago golfing district as one of its most beautiful and technically constructed courses. In fact it has been played by golfers from coast to coast. Aye! England.

Tom Bendelow, the "man from Aberdeen," was the first architect hired to lay out a real course, but his best efforts were cramped for want of sufficient acreage, and the course was modified from time to time until it was appreciated that more acreage was necessary to build a course with sufficient yardage, proper bunkering and hazards.

For several years it had been a constant struggle to finance the club, due to the lack of sufficient water for the fairways and greens, and lack of proper drainage — both vitally necessary to keep a golf course in anything like good playing condition — thereby making it next to impossible to interest and hold the members of the club; and it was found impossible to fill the membership.

In 1915 Walter Raymer was elected president of the Park Ridge Country Club with an enthusiastic and hustling board of directors, and a determined and fighting membership, although perhaps few in numbers.

Under Mr. Raymer's leadership and his borrowing capacity (he was and is a banker) we borrowed \$45,000.00, largely on promissory notes and by plastering a second mortgage on our holdings and purchased additional acreage and hired Frank Langford, golf architect, and entirely rebuilt the course into substantially its present perfect layout.

We had as one of the board at this time Mr. Frank Craig, a man loved by all, and particularly by the birds and flowers which he in turn dearly loved. Mr. Craig devoted two years of his spare time erecting three hundred bird houses for his feathery friends, and by planting covered the course with beautiful trees around each of the eighteen tees, and shrubbery throughout the whole course — and in addition to the tremendous flower bed near the lake, developed others in many unexpected places and corners and coves throughout the course where the bees and hummingbirds and butterflies sought their daily sustenance, and as a result the very atmosphere became laden with sweet perfume, and our hearts were made glad.

Mr. Frank Craig was made an honorary member of the club for this service, and as the older members who knew Mr. Craig drive their golf balls through the course their inclination is to stop at the clusters of shrubbery and the flower gardens and raise their hats to him who accomplished these things.

Our birds became so well known that the president of the Audubon Society of America visited the course to see for himself, and to advise, and we then organized and have since maintained the Leaf and Feathery committee, whose sole business it is to watch over and protect our birds and flowers.

The first club house of the Park Ridge Country Club was developed by the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright from the tiny little frame farm house into a very far-reaching club house with glassed and screened in porches surrounded by flowers, and its countrified effect and unique beauty with trees growing up through the porches and roofs became known far and wide, but while very beautiful and attractive it lacked modern conveniences.

With the building of the modern golf courses — the beautiful patch of woods along Prospect avenue, the flowers, the birds and shrubbery, our membership rapidly filled up.

The club had overcome the water shortage after years of waiting by sinking a well and developing the pond into a cemented lake as the result of a gift of \$5,000.00 from Mrs. Edward L. Wickwire in remembrance of her deceased husband, whose attachment for our club was deep; and we had overcome our lack of drainage by developing our "right of way" for drainage into the Des Plaines river through a ditch through the farms to the west of us, and we were rebounding from the shock of the \$45,000.00 expenditures in rebuilding our course and were about ready for further advancement and adventure.

The club had not reached this plane of progress and advancement without much grief and worries. As the course developed we had many guests from other clubs, some of whom went home without a shower in the days of "lack of water"; and others criticised the poor drainage, due to the fact that the Park Ridge city draining system was neither low enough nor large enough to drain the course into, but these were overcome as described and we excused the city of Park Ridge to our complaining guests and members, calling attention to its crooked and shaded streets, the absence of factories and unsightly structures and the homey atmosphere.

We were determined for success and would not be placed on the defensive.

The members of the Park Ridge Country Club appreciated that any criticism of the city of Park Ridge for any reason whatsoever would hurt the club — that the interests of the city of Park Ridge and the club were identical, and battled it out along those lines; and this was made easier by the support we received from time to time by the officials of the city of Park Ridge, who truly helped when it was possible and the necessities of the club were fairly presented.

There was nothing that the city of Park Ridge could do to remedy the sewerage question nor was it possible to furnish us with the necessary water power, and the solution of these two vital questions was one for the club to overcome, and these were overcome as described.

The vital interests of both the city of Park Ridge and the club were identical and so closely interwoven that one of necessity had to help and defend and develop the other, and accordingly each did so help and defend and was the means of keeping the officials of the city of Park Ridge and the officers of the Park Ridge Country Club on exceedingly friendly terms. The fact that the city of Park Ridge has been helped by the club will be more greatly appreciated when it is generally known that for the past six or seven years the Park Ridge Country Club course was played over by approximately 2,500 golfers from other golf clubs throughout the Chicago golfing district during each year, so that in the past six years the Park Ridge Country Club has brought to the city of Park Ridge approximately 15,000 golfers, 99 per cent of whom are members of other golf clubs and necessarily more or less financially prosperous and practically in every instance fine, big, wholesome fellows, and therefore, the prosperity of the Park Ridge Country Club means much to the city of Park Ridge and to its material growth, and of course the members of the Park

Ridge Country Club cannot permit of any criticism of the beauties of this little wooded suburb of Chicago, whose crooked and shaded streets and homey atmosphere have come to mean so much to both the local and Chicago members of the club, particularly in view of the fact that the success of the Park Ridge Country Club has also been attended by the friendship and good will of the residents of the city of Park Ridge.

The writer some years ago remembers standing on the height in Sutro Park which rises immediately beyond the beach at the golden gate in San Francisco watching the glorious sunset over the Pacific about which the poets declaim, and being enthralled with the beauty of the coloring and the sunset; but the beauty of this picture from its setting in Sutro Park is no greater than what may be seen most any day in the week sitting on the porch of the Park Ridge Country Club and watching the sun set over the beautiful level fairways and green trees and shrubbery in the west, surrounded by flower gardens and birds round about — so tame and at home as to entirely ignore the golfers and other humans.

It is necessary, sometimes, to leave home to appreciate what we have at home.

This flood of guests from far and wide — the filling of our membership and the large waiting list, induced us as a club to step out again and add to our course a very modern club house containing all conveniences, and in keeping with our course and surroundings.

We believe we have one of the most beautiful lounges, reception room, dining room and grill in the Chicago district. The dining room contains a very highly carved mantel, including a painting which is over four hundred years old, which were brought to this country by the Art Institute of Chicago for installation in their English room, and was procured for the club by W. H. Miller of Marshall Field and Company. The mantel was built into an old English castle.

It is pleasing to our members to see the wonderfully attractive homes springing up around and about us. Well can some of you remember when Park Ridge was pointed out from Milwaukee avenue by the water tank. Now it is pointed out by the bright colors of its clustered homes, backed by green trees, by the many tourists along the same avenue.

More and more are the beauties of the Park Ridge Country Club influencing its members and guests to move to the city of Park Ridge where there are no factories to pollute the atmosphere — where homely surroundings prevail supreme — where they may come from the daily grind and step out on a beautiful course and enjoy the privileges of breathing fresh, clean air, associating with their feathery friends, flowers and other things that God has given them to make their lives fuller, happier, cleaner and more wholesome, and to be kept in touch with nature.

—George Lauder Turnbull.

DO YOU REMEMBER WAY BACK WHEN—

Mark Kendall, the butcher, rang his bell and the housewives went out to the meat wagon and selected the cut they wanted — not much choice, however? It was lucky if there were two kinds of meat to choose from; never were there three, and generally only one.

The small boys used to make rafts of the sidewalks (wooden planks) in the spring?

One Hallowe'en the small boys unhinged about ten gates (they had them in those days) and piled them up at the depot. And householders had to come down and pick out their gate and carry it home, and several mistakes were made—the gates not fitting, more trips to the depot, etc.? Oh! Those were the good old days.

The pioneer women had many things to contend with? Two that they did not have were cigarette stained fingers and chapped knees.

Fred I. Gillick as a boy took care of Sam Davis' horse and cow for a small sum per week?

Sam Davis moved from the residence which Dr. Friend occupies because the rent was raised from \$15.00 to \$17.00 a month?

Messrs. Penny and Meacham wrote a clause into every deed to property they sold, prohibiting the manufacture or sale of intoxicants on that piece of land?



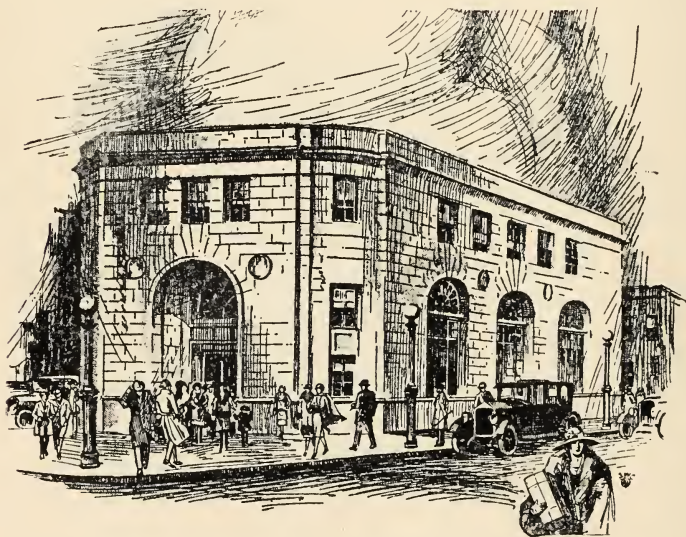
First Bank in the office and under the management of W. G. and S. H. Barrows. 1908.



When the Bank was in a part of F. J. Gillick's office—1909.



*Park Ridge State Bank,
1914-1926.*



*Latest edifice housing Park Ridge State Bank.
Took up occupancy February, 1926.*

THE PARK RIDGE STATE BANK

In 1908 Park Ridge had grown so prosperous and was growing so steadily that local merchants could no longer transact business except at great inconvenience without some sort of banking facilities.

In November, 1908, W. G. and S. H. Barrows opened a banking department in connection with their lumber and coal business.

At the end of the first year transactions in this banking department had so increased that the lumber office could no longer accommodate customers of this department. A new location was sought and in 1909 half of Mr. Gillick's office was leased, new fixtures installed and the bank on the second lap of its progress. At this time Mr. W. G. Barrows retired from the business and it was continued by Mr. S. H. Barrows. In 1910 application was made to the secretary of state for permission to organize as a state bank — Mr. George E. Clark, Fred I. Gillick and Stanley H. Barrows being the commissioners. In November, 1910, all the stock was sold and paid for, and the first meeting of stockholders called.

The Park Ridge State Bank on January 2, 1911, remained in the same quarters as its predecessor, taking over the business of W. G. and S. H. Barrows, bankers.

The new bank continued to grow, providing greater security, better facilities, better service and in 1913 the directors unanimously voted to build a new banking home. The new bank building on the southeast corner of Prospect Avenue and the Northwest Highway was opened September 12, 1914.

Despite the fact that when this building was erected it was considered adequate for future requirements, the growth was so phenomenal that twelve years later finds the need of more commodious quarters pressing, and in 1926 the business was moved into the beautiful and imposing edifice on that historical triangle of land where Mancel Talcott built his humble log cabin in 1845, Northwest Highway and Center Street.

The resources of the bank have multiplied twenty times in fifteen years, indicating unmistakably that it has undeniably fulfilled its purpose.





Mrs. Amalie Maas in front of her home at 310 Grand Blvd. This house was erected in 1853 and stands practically as it was built with no alterations.

THE HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PARK RIDGE

In the earlier days, the Catholics of these parts belonged to the Catholic parish of Des Plaines, Ill., and were obliged to go there to worship. The Catholic families at that time were the Flynns, Ratighans, Connellys, Carpenters, Webers, Murphys, Lechners, Kemps, Kennedy's, Schiessles, Bauers, Costellos, Colemans and Greiwes. Miss Alice Ratighan taught the elements of Christian doctrine to the children every Sunday afternoon in her home.

In 1901 the Sisters of Charity in charge of St. Vincent's Foundling Asylum, Chicago, rented a large frame residence on the North School street, the property of Charles Paine, as a summer home for the children.

The following year, Mrs. Mary Butler conditionally donated a tract of 20 acres of land bounded by Park avenue, Washington street and the Niles road, on which a substantial brick building flanked by spacious verandas was erected at a cost of \$14,000.00. A Vincentian father came out every Sunday from Chicago to celebrate holy mass and minister to the religious needs of the small community. In this foundation, they were charitably assisted by the members of the Catholic congregation.

In 1903 the Most Rev. Archbishop Quigley kindly and generously permitted and assisted the Passionist Fathers to found a house of the order within the archdiocese. A suitable place was secured at Norwood Park within the city limits of Chicago. The parochial boundaries included Norwood Park, Edison Park, Park Ridge and Niles. Mass was first celebrated in the chapel of the summer home of St. Vincent's Asylum on Sundays for the congregation, until a new frame church had

been built and dedicated in September, 1904, at Norwood Park. To this church the Catholics of Edison Park and Park Ridge were wont to go to assist at holy mass and divine service. The best remembered fathers of the community at Norwood Park are: Felix Ward, Albert Phelan, Sebastian Ochsenreiter, Philip Birk, Peter Hanley and Michael Klinzing, R. I. P.

On June 20, 1911, the Very Rev. Father Jerome Reuter-
man, C. P. provincial of the Western province of the Passion-
ist order, addressed a meeting of the parishioners, in the home
of Mr. A. Susen, and announced to them that his grace, Arch-
bishop Quigley, had given them a separate status as a congre-
gation. Arrangements were at once made for holding divine
service in Park Ridge and mass was celebrated the following
Sunday, June 25th, in the Music hall. A lot was fixed upon
66 x 150 feet on Park avenue, midway between Park Ridge
and Edison Park, in the Root subdivision, as a central site for
a new church.

Mr. Anthony Susen, proprietor of the Phoenix Steam
Dye House, of Chicago, purchased this lot and generously
deeded it to the Catholic Bishop of Chicago with a donation
of \$500.00, as the nucleus of a building fund. Our note-
worthy benefactors of the new parish were Mr. Michael
Schiessle and Silas B. Carpenter, who installed the furnaces.

On Monday, October 9, 1911, the first turf was cut for
the foundation of a new church and the building was at once
begun. The patron saint chosen for the new congregation
was St. Paul of the Cross, who founded the Passionist order
in the eighteenth century. He was born at Ovada, near

Genoa, Italy, in 1694, died in 1775, and was canonized in 1869 by Pope Pius IX. The church is of frame construction with a concrete and brick foundation and stands back 55 feet from the sidewalk. The style of architecture throughout is Roman.

The Rev. Augustine Scannell, C. P. was the priest in charge until it was turned over to the diocese and Cardinal Mundelein, then Bishop, appointed Father Nawn.



HISTORY OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST,

of Park Ridge and Edison Park, Illinois.

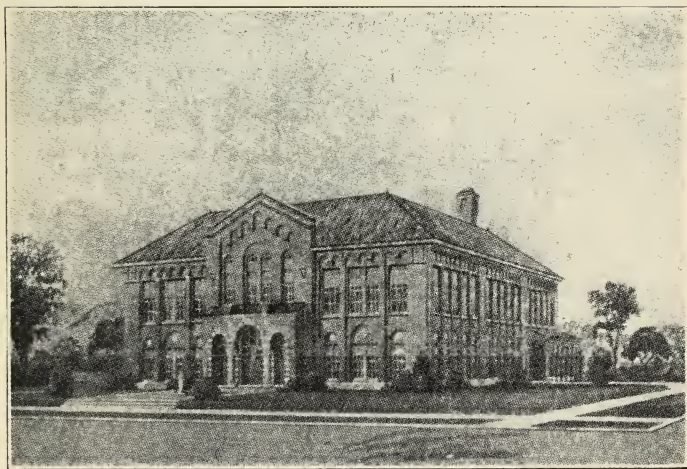
In the spring of 1897 two Christian Scientists, residents of Edison Park, Illinois, met each week to read Science and health, and in the spring of 1898 they were joined by three other interested students and the reading of the Bible lessons after the manner of the regular Sunday service was begun. These inquirers after the truth were soon joined by others who came from Park Ridge, and the work steadily progressed, with acknowledgment of healings as a result of these services.

The regular attendance continued to increase, until it numbered about twenty, and in 1901 it was thought advisable to locate a hall, where Sunday and Wednesday evening meetings could be held. This was brought about, but soon a need became apparent for a Christian Science organization, and on July 25, 1902, a church was organized with twelve members, under the corporate name of First church of Christ, Scientist, of Park Ridge and Edison Park. The members soon increased to twenty-two, and with the growing interest, came a demand for a church home. It was decided to erect a building on a lot that had formerly been presented to the little circle, this lot being located between Park Ridge and Edison Park.

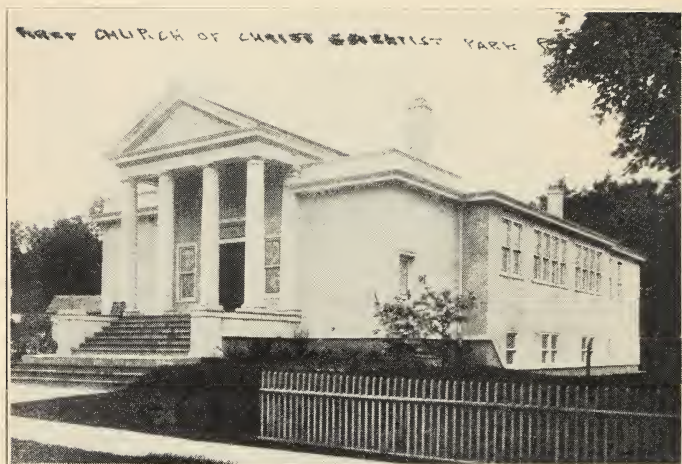
Before any decisive steps were taken there was a proffer of all or any part of six hundred dollars as a building fund, which was the amount contemplated for the humble structure under consideration. This was accompanied by the offer of the services of an architect and with joy and assurance the little band went forward. Donations of all kinds rolled in, until the amount of money and material far exceeded the fondest hopes of the workers. Among other things was a granite block



St. Paul of the Cross, Catholic Church.



St. Paul of the Cross School, located on the Northwest Highway, is one of the first of the buildings of Park Ridge to catch the attention of the visitor who approaches from Chicago. Surroundings and building are both attractive and the school itself is fully equipped to give the best of instruction to the children who are its pupils.



*Classic Structure Housing Christian Scientists of Park Ridge
and Edison Park.*

from Concord, N. H. One more than was necessary for the completion of a large structure in Chicago had been sent, and through the architect, who was acting for both organizations, the way was opened for the transfer of the much prized granite block, to the smaller church property to be used as a corner stone. The bounty of infinite love was plainly discerned in this supply of our need.

After the impressive service at the laying of the corner stone, September 16, 1902, those present were greeted by three loyal workers from the Evanston church, who came with a message of love and a generous contribution to the building fund. When the church, simple and chaste in design, reminding one of a little New England meetinghouse, was dedicated, October 12, 1902, three services were held, each one being well attended. Valuation of the building was placed at three thousand dollars, and there was a seating capacity of one hundred and fifty. Services were held twice a week until December, 1910, when the structure was destroyed by fire and it became necessary to rent a hall.

In October, 1912, the organization purchased a lot 60 x 100 feet on Park avenue, in Park Ridge, for fifteen hundred dollars. In January, 1914, plans were prepared for the present structure; ground was broken on July 6, and the corner stone, taken from the former church, became the corner stone of the new church. The cost of the present building was about eleven thousand dollars. It has a seating capacity of three hundred and fifty.

Those associated with the building of the present edifice will ever be grateful for the unbroken harmony that has reigned in their united efforts for the cause in this community.

Being free of debt, the present structure was dedicated December 9, 1917, three services being held.

SERIOUS AND FRIVOLOUS FACTS

In the 1890's the Saturday Evening Cinch Club was the elite group of Park Ridge. Among its personnel were the Welles, the Pennys, Stevensons, Stockdales, Cochrans, the Dr. Stantons, the Sam Davis' and the Phillipsons.

Mr. Phillipson lived in the house now occupied by Matthias Hanck, the jeweler, and designed the metal work used in the Chicago World's fair, he also built about four houses in Park Ridge.

This group of people had many gay times together, they first met and played cinch; later it was changed to a whist club. They also had many merry sleighing parties where they would stop at Des Plaines for an oyster supper.

Mrs. Fricke was the doctor's right hand helper. In confinement cases where assistance could not be had, often, could not be afforded, she would take charge of the baby, bathing and caring for it and later carried soup and delicacies to the convalescent mother. In accident cases, too, she often had to help with the care of the patient. A country doctor's wife, in the 1880's had to be able to adjust herself to many tasks.

Mrs. Fricke was a city girl and was so lonely when she first came to Park Ridge that she pulled down the shades of her home, as all that was visible from the windows was prairie and that made her feel quite desolate.

HODGE'S PARK

The ground for Hodge's Park was given to Park Ridge by Leonard Hodges, one of the first subdividers, at the same time he gave the land across the street to the Congregation-
alists to build what is now Community Church.

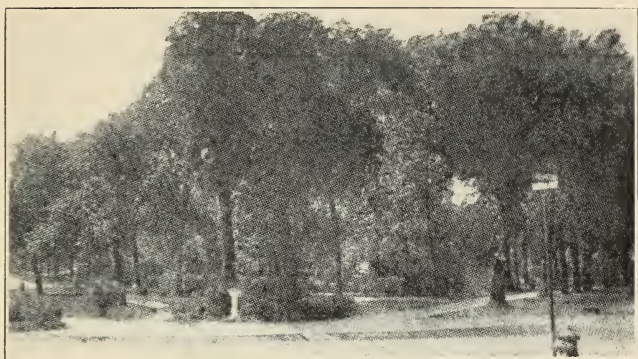
Dr. Fricke planted most of the trees in the park and Emma Fricke (Mrs. Wilking) remembers playing in the park when the grass was as high as her waist.

The mound of rocks interspersed with plants in the middle of the park has very interesting associations. The rocks are molten relics of the Chicago fire; bits of molten stone, brick and plaster that were hauled out here by a teamster and dumped in an unsightly pile until they were arranged and plants put in and an interesting and quaint rockery the result.

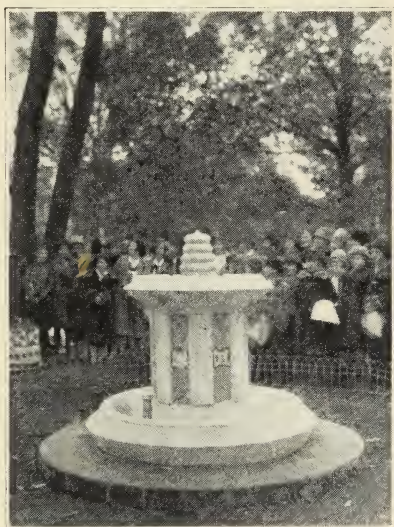
ST. LUKE'S ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

In the month of September, 1914, the officials of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Northern Illinois, at the suggestion of Mr. Louis F. Mueller, then a resident of Park Ridge, and with the assistance of a number of others, made a religious canvass of Park Ridge to find out the number of people interested in an English Lutheran church. The report of the canvass indicated that there was a field in Park Ridge for a Lutheran church with all services in the English language. Steps were at once taken to start the new church.

In the middle of October, 1914, announcement was made that the first service of the new church would be held Sunday, October 25, in the church building of the former German Congregational Church on Third street. At 10 A. M., October 25, a Sunday school was started with the names of three children entered on the roll. Louis F. Mueller was appointed the superintendent of the new Sunday school. At 3 P. M. on the same day the first regular service of worship was conducted by the Rev. John F. Seibert, D. D., who was then the missionary superintendent of the Northern Illinois Synod. The sermon was preached by the president of the synod, the Rev. John M. Bramkamp, D. D. The choir of Calvary Lutheran Church, Irving Park, rendered able assistance in the music of the service.



Hodges Park—Ground Donated in 1873.



*Fountain in Hodge's Park presented by
the Campfire Girls of Park
Ridge, 1926.*



Rev. Walter D. Spangler, Pastor.



*St. Luke's English Lutheran Church,
South Park and Euclid Avenues.*

The week following the first service arrangements were made to hold services regularly each Sunday in Clark's Hall (now Robinson's Hall) on Prospect avenue. For four years this hall continued to be the regular place of worship for the Park Ridge English Lutheran Church, which, on the day of its organization was given the corporate name of St. Luke's English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Park Ridge, Illinois.

From its beginning in the autumn of 1914 to the spring of 1915, St. Luke's Church was served by supply pastors each Sunday. At the end of May, 1915, the first regular pastor of the church arrived to take charge of the work of the parish. The pastor was the Rev. Walter D. Spangler, just graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in the class of 1915. He has been the first and only pastor of St. Luke's to date.

St. Luke's Church has had a steady, substantial growth during all the years of its history. Although it is the youngest church in Park Ridge, it has won its way to a position of influence and service in the community which has been a decided encouragement to all those who have labored in its various departments of work.

Clark's Hall served its purpose well as a temporary place of worship. But there soon arose a desire in the parish to take the first step in the direction of securing a permanent church home. Hence, in the spring of 1916 the corner lot at South Park avenue and Euclid avenue, on which the bungalow church now stands, was purchased. The coming of the great war delayed the erection of a church building. But in the year 1918 the need of a regular church home was so keenly felt that action was taken to erect a bungalow church which was completed in the autumn of the same year.

The parish has gradually outgrown this cozy home-like building, until, at the annual business meeting of the church in May, 1925, the first definite steps were taken to secure a larger building to provide more adequate equipment for the church's work. In June, 1926, the north-east corner of North Prospect avenue and Cedar street was selected as the site for a new church building. The new site is large enough for a complete church plant, including an auditorium for worship, a parish house for social and recreational activities and religious education, and a parsonage as a home for the pastor and family.

As a part of the social life of the church, St. Luke's now has the assistance of Mrs. A. E. Shibley as recreational director, who has charge of the religious pageantry and dramatic work in the parish. Frequently during the year Bible history will be dramatized. This is right in line with the new emphasis of the church on the fine art of religious drama.

St. Luke's Church is here to serve the community in a practical religious way. Some of its ideals have been stated in this: "A church with the faith of our fathers; a church for the community; a church with a world vision." St. Luke's is officially connected with the United Lutheran Church in America.

BASEBALL

Someone has said that America and baseball met each other when they were young and grew up together. "Doc" Wintersteen tells us that in 1904, Mr. Stone organized what was called "The Rover Athletic Club." Mr. Stone was an ordained minister of the Episcopal mission. The boys played baseball until 1907, when a ball park was planned right across from the Silberman home—they raised \$500 with which to build a grand stand. Out of the 43 games played they won 37.

Every boy wants to be a ball player and a good one, very well, practice will do it. Play ball and play it often—"Doc" says play.



SERIOUS AND FRIVOLOUS FACTS

Gustav Steiner, the best hunter hereabouts, supplied Dr. Fricke and his young wife with all kinds of wild game, quail, prairie chicken, partridge, wild pigeon, skunks, raccoon, silver fox, rabbit, etc., about 1875.

In 1876 when Dr. Fricke purchased the house he now occupies, the only houses south of the tracks, besides that, were the Penny house, now occupied by Dr. Noyes, an old farm house, now occupied by Dr. Friend, the unfinished Congregational Church and Sam Cummings' house.

Fred Stagg has been a member of the Park Ridge Fire department continuously for about twenty-four years.

CHIEF OF POLICE CHARLES DUWEL'S OWN STORY

When I first stepped off the Chicago & North Western train at the depot in Park Ridge, August 12th, 1874, the scene which greeted my eyes was far different from that presented today.

In the first place the little brick depot was situated about six feet west of Prospect Avenue. There were corn fields, grain fields and farming lands where the Prospect Avenue school grounds are now. The freight depot was on the other side of the railroad near Prospect.

There was not a soul in sight but Sam Cummings, the depot agent. Park Ridge at this time was very small, with a population estimated at between 175 and 200. The business district was located on Park Avenue and consisted of a couple of stores and a black-smith shop. Charles Stebbings had a store at 11 North Park Avenue, where the G. N. Grigsby & Company Real Estate firm is now located.

Charles Kobow and Rudolph Brunst also had a store in the Park Avenue district and blacksmith Miller's shop, where the band-stand is now located, completed the list of business places, except for the brick yard on the other side of Elm street, where the bricks were made by hand.

The first brick house built in Chicago was made of Park Ridge manufacture, hand made brick.

There was a clay pool where the clay used in making brick was dug out on what is now Grand Boulevard. This was used in those days as a swimming pool and fishing ground, as boys must always have their recreation spot.

There were a large group of little shanties put up for the brick makers, strung along Elm Street between Meacham and Park Avenue and along Park Avenue between Meacham and Elm. On what is now Center Street, were old farm

houses and barns shingled with slew hay—something rarely seen anywhere today.

In the early days the 4th of July celebrations were held where Busse's Garage and Roloff's hardware store are now located, in what was then an apple orchard.

When I first came to Park Ridge I worked for a time in the brick yard and then on the Walter Zitzewitz farm, which used to be known as the old Brown place.

From 1874 to 1892 the Village administration consisted of a president and a Board of Trustees with a town Marshall in charge of law enforcement. The police were a volunteer force similar to the fire department of the present day, a number of local citizens wore stars and were subject to call at any hour of day or night.

In 1892 I began to work on the police force of Park Ridge where I have been working ever since. At that time Charlie More was police captain and Claus Hamer and myself constituted the entire force. I had 123 kerosene street lamps to light before going on duty each night and then my share of the village to cover after that. The salary at that time was \$45 a month.

In 1901 I was appointed chief of Police of Park Ridge and am still serving in that capacity.

THE PARK RIDGE WOMAN'S CLUB

The Park Ridge Woman's Club was organized in 1894, at that time it was called the Tuesday Literary Club. The first president and one of the active leaders in its early years was Mrs. Z. D. Root, and for a number of years her home was the regular meeting place for the club. In 1901 the name was changed to the Park Ridge Woman's Club. It is affiliated with the Illinois Federation of Woman's Clubs and the General Federation. It was incorporated in 1920.

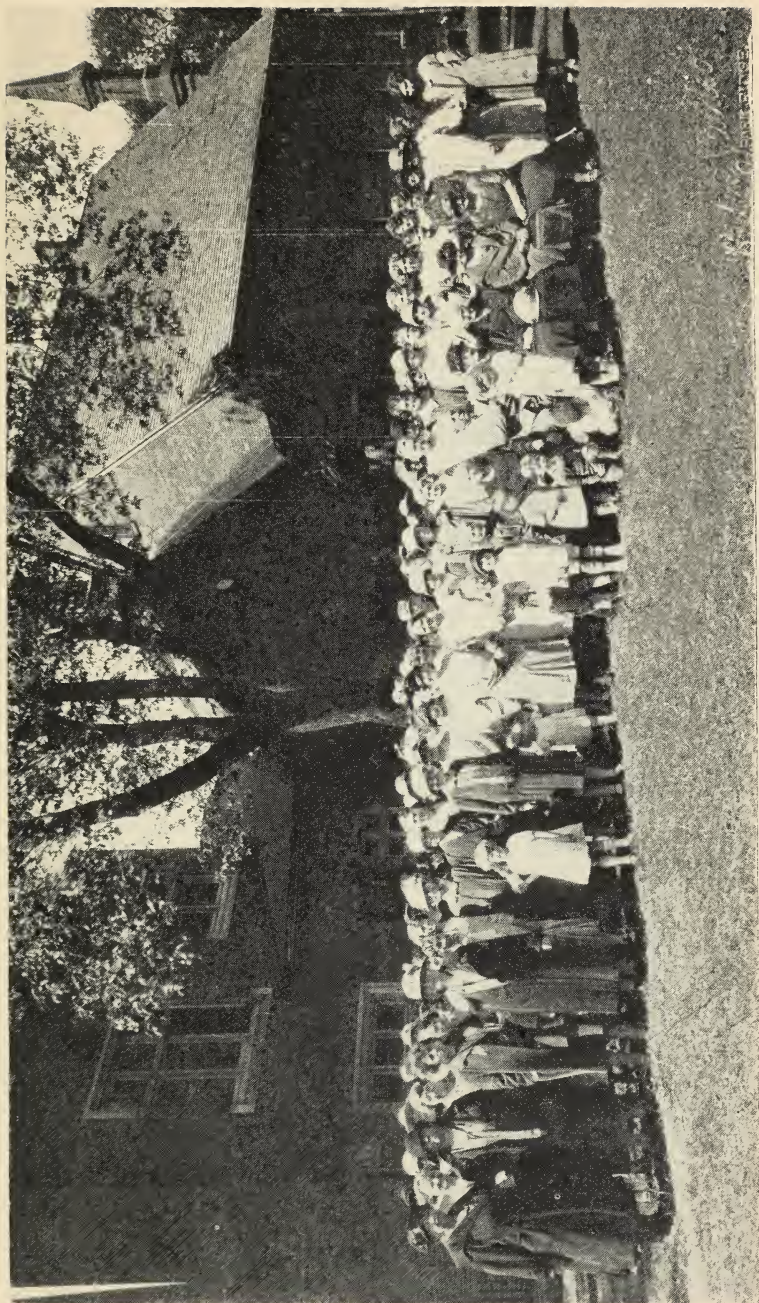
THE PARK RIDGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The organization of the Park Ridge Improvement Association took place in May, 1912. At the time of its organization there were but thirty-three members, and of those original members only eight are on the membership list now. This association, too, is affiliated with the State and General Federation of Woman's Clubs.

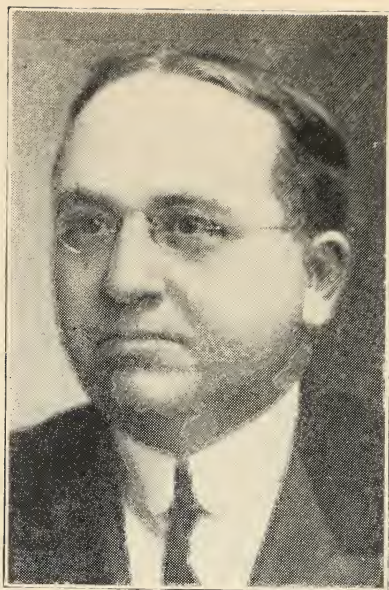
These two woman's clubs and a branch of the Woman's City Club fulfil all needs of the average club-woman.

Other organizations in Park Ridge are:

- The Commercial Men's Association.
- A branch of the Infant Welfare.
- A Kiwanis Club.
- Community Council.
- The Parent-Teachers' Association.
- The Masonic Lodge.
- The Order of the Eastern Star.
- The Royal League.
- Boy Scouts.
- Girl Scouts.
- Camp Fire Girls.
- A Building and Loan association.
- A Welfare board.
- The American Legion.
- The American Legion Auxiliary.



A Typical Group of Members of Community Circle. New Community House in the Background.
September, 1926.



*Rev. Orvis F. Jordan, Pastor of
Community Church.*



Community Church.

CHURCHES

Very early in the history of the pioneers we find them interested in the religious welfare of themselves and their families, and as the churches form the background of society in Park Ridge, the history of each and every church is essential to the history of the growth of the community.

As the present Community Church is the oldest body of organized worshippers in the town, the following is a careful, comprehensive history of its growth:

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH 1841-1926

Although Park Ridge Community Church is, in one sense, quite young — having existed in its present form less than ten years — in another sense it is quite old, being a continuation of an organization formed by the pioneers in this section many years ago. Its history is the story of a church with a passion for unity, as evidenced by the various experiments in that direction at intervals throughout its life. The old records, written in an old-fashioned hand, and yellowed by time, are perhaps the earliest account of organized community life in this region. Prefixed to these formal records, and in the same handwriting, is this unsigned account of the origin of this organization.

"In the summer of 1841, some families having located in the portion of Monroe precinct on or near the Des Plaines river, who were members of churches of several denominations, and being without church organization or ministerial leaders, or even a school-house for their accommodation; somehow without much concert or prearrangement, would find themselves together — perhaps by some kind of religious instinct — for the purpose of public worship on the Sabbath. So they continued to meet, sometimes reading a good sermon

with prayer and singing; sometimes spending the season in prayer, conference and singing; and found it good thus to wait upon the Lord and 'remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy'. Sometimes traveling preachers would call and spend the Sabbath, and leave the little, struggling group greatly refreshed and strengthened. In this way they continued to work and worship together, the little congregation gradually increasing until a schoolhouse was built on Smith's ridge. It was thought very convenient, and being small, was generally well filled."

"This little community now began to attract attention and were frequently favored with a visit and a discourse from a preacher of some denomination; and as they had a number of good singers, the Sabbath services were made quite attractive. Particularly so as about this time (1842) a very interesting Sunday school was organized. This was thought to be a great advance in the moral state of affairs, and contributed largely to the enjoyment of the little band of workers. In this gradual manner, without any sudden transition, change after change arrived till the question of church organization began to be discussed, which soon resulted in the organization of a Congregational church, as found in the following record."

The first record is dated January twenty-second, 1843, and states that: "At a meeting of the inhabitants of Monroe precinct, professors of religion, who have removed from different parts of the country, Rev. Mr. Wells being present, resolved unanimously that it is expedient to organize a church in this place. Meeting adjourned to meet again at the schoolhouse on Saturday, February fourth, at one o'clock P. M. Closed with prayer by Mr. Wells."

The meeting was held at the appointed time, articles of faith, practice and covenant were adopted; and the Monroe Congregational Church was organized. There were fifteen members, and Curtis Clark was elected deacon and John C. Clark was chosen clerk. Rev. B. B. Drake — a home missionary pastor from the Congregational Church at Elk Grove — also Rev. E. E. Wells were present.

The names of the fifteen original members were as follows: Curtis Clark, Electa Clark, John C. Clark, Asa Clark, Mrs. Sarah Brooks, Mrs. Perlina Richmond, Mrs. Hannah Sweeney, Mrs. Naomi Ferguson, Joseph Lovat, John Sweeney, Susana Sweeney, William H. Bishop, Mrs. Sarah Bishop, Mrs. Eliza Sherman, Miss Emily J. Ferguson.

“On the Sabbath, February fifth, the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was administered by Rev. Messrs. Wells and Drake.”

Some of the “articles of faith and practice” sound a little odd to our ears; as, for example, the rules for observance of the Sabbath:

“The following things are prohibited: All secular labor in seed-time and harvest, and in all other seasons of the year. The prosecution of journeys; visiting, either individuals, families, or connections (except in case of sickness or death). Conversation about temporal avocations, or news, calling at post office for letters or newspapers, and reading papers not of a religious character, and all other similar employments.”

Equally quaint in expression, but an excellent rule for our consideration, is the one concerning evil speaking: “We believe the practice of making unfavorable insinuations about members, conversing about injurious reports that may be in circulation, or mentioning the faults of brethren to persons to

whom such faults are unknown, unless it is unavoidable in prosecuting a cause before the proper judicatory, or the performance of some other indispensable duty, is distinctly contrary to the duties of brotherly love. We believe that instead of this practice the rule in Matthew 18 should be strictly observed."

Church members also pledged themselves not to manufacture, vend, or use ardent spirits, except for medical or manufacturing purposes.

These things show that these pioneer people, like the Puritans of an earlier generation, though they might have been narrow in some ways, were yet men of high principles and earnest purpose.

A word of explanation of the term Monroe precinct, may be necessary. The present division of Cook County into townships was not effected until 1850; previously, each congressional district was divided into two voting precincts. Monroe precinct comprised Leyden township, the west half of Jefferson township, and a part of Maine. The schoolhouse which is mentioned as the first house of worship stood south of what is now Norwood Park on the Higgins road very near the present site of Union Ridge Cemetery. The congregation was much scattered, many of the people living around what is now Norwood Park, Dunning, and Kolze; and others in this neighborhood and north and west of here. However, the distance to be traveled was not as great as might be imagined, for there were few roads and no fences. When one wished to go anywhere, he saddled his horse and took a straight course across the prairie; unless, indeed, the season happened to be a wet one, in which case he might have to go a mile or so around to avoid a slough.

There was no Congregational church in Chicago at that time, and in July, 1843, Monroe Church applied for membership in the Fox River Union under whose wing it remained until 1868, at which time it joined the Chicago Congregational Association. I believe that Monroe Church will be found to be the first Congregational church organized in Cook County that is still in existence.

Mr. Wells was succeeded in 1844 by Rev. C. R. French, and Rev. A. W. Henderson came in 1847.

Some of the early settlers who became members of this church were: Dr. Silas Meacham and family, Joseph Gibbs and family, C. A. Hawley, Frederick Brooks, Tilton French, George McKinney, Fred A. Root, Jacob Kline and family, William Mather and family, Anson Tyler Hemingway and wife, Mrs. Sarah Lee, Clarissa Jefferson, John Calef, A. D. Rowley.

In July, 1848, a meeting was held at the home of Dr. Silas Meacham to organize a Congregational society, the object of which was "To assist in the support of the institutions and ordinances of the Monroe Congregational Church." All persons were entitled to vote in this society who habitually attended the services of the church and who contributed to its support not less than one dollar a year, provided they had reached the age of eighteen years. Officers of the society were three trustees, a clerk, and a treasurer. There seems to have been no other church in the vicinity, and a variety of religious faiths were represented in this society, the members of which were thus given a voice in the temporal affairs of the church, although they were not members of the church itself. This probably explains why many old residents think of this organization as having been a union church. Having adopted a constitution and chosen Anson Goodspeed, Curtis Clark and John Jeffrey as trustees, and Silas Meacham clerk, the society immediately went to work to raise money to build a house of worship.

A great many of the early residents had come from New York, and their friends back home were evidently appealed to for help in raising funds for the building, for the records show that about eighty dollars was raised in New York city and Brooklyn for that purpose. Building materials were also donated by Chicago firms. A site was found for the church between the homes of Silas Meacham and Curtis Clark. The surveyor's description of this location is given in the records. This site was at the place where now Dee road intersects Talcott road, and is marked by a clump of locust trees. A building was erected, and although it was never finished inside, was used for church purposes for several years. Later it was sold to Thomas Robb for two hundred dollars. Colonel Robb moved the building to his place and made it over into a residence. Until 1909 this house stood on North Prospect avenue, on the site now occupied by the home of Mrs. Cawthorne. It was a plain frame house, the front entrance and the windows being the only suggestion of a simple form of church architecture. The reason for selling this church property seems to have been as follows: In the year 1854 the Chicago and North Western Railroad was laid through this region and about the same time Messrs. Penny and Meacham started a brick yard here. This business grew and gave employment to quite a number of people, and a little town grew up around it which was first called Pennyville and later Brickton. Brickton soon became the center of population of the district, so that the little church in the woods was conveniently located, and having sold the building, the Congregational Church of Brickton held its meetings in a schoolhouse that was located on the site now occupied by the water works. In 1856 the Congregational Society set on foot a plan to build a Union church in Brickton, which did not mature. Shortly after the Methodist Episcopal Church of Brickton was started. Under

date of April, 1858, we find the following record: "Resolved that the kind resolutions of the M. E. church, inviting us to the free use of their house every alternate Sabbath A. M. during the conference year, is gratefully acknowledged and accepted, and we pledge ourselves to contribute liberally as occasion may require to defray the contingent expenses."

In 1859 the Congregational Society again planned to erect a place of worship, and decided upon a site near the Canfield Depot — Canfield having been the former name of Edison Park. Materials were purchased and plans outlined for the erection of a building thirty-six by fifty-two feet. But, for some unexplained reason, their plans were abandoned and for some years the records are very sparse and the church does not appear to have been very active. Several reasons for this inactivity may be advanced: the organization of a Congregational Church in Jefferson Park occasioned the dismissal of some of the most active members to that Church; the Clark family moved to Minnesota leaving the Church still further depleted. The financial stringency of the times and final outbreak of the Civil War checked all organized efforts for several years. Though the records give no account of religious activities through these troubled years, old residents say that the Congregationalists worshipped with the Methodists, and that all the women met together to roll bandages for the wounded soldiers. Not until 1868 were the services of the Brickton Congregational Church resumed. At this time there seems to have been a revival of interest. Rev. J. E. Roy of the Congregational Home Missionary Society met with the Church on April twenty-fifth of that year; a number of new members were received; the constitution was revised and meetings were held—at first every four weeks—in the M. E. Church. In September of the same year the Congregational Society was also revived, and Rev. J. H. Laird, of Fairfield, Ohio, was called to the pastorate "at a salary of three hundred dollars

per annum and a house to live in". Arrangements were made with the school directors whereby the Church was to have the use of the upper room of the new school house (Grant Place school), as a place of worship with the understanding that the Society "Pay the District twenty-six dollars a year, and keep and leave the room as clean and in as good repair as they find it, and pay for their proportion of coal if they use the furnace." A collection was taken to help pay for lumber and nails for seats and pulpit, the labor being donated by members of the congregation.

Mr. Laird preached in Des Plaines on Sunday afternoons, and, in October, 1869, the pastor and other members of the Church participated in the organization of the Congregational Church of Des Plaines. In October 1870 we read—"It was voted that the school teacher or directors be asked to close the school next Tuesday as the Chicago Congregational Association is to meet in our audience room on that day."

In 1873 the Church again began making plans to build, and after considering several sites it was decided to accept the offer of Mr. Leonard Hodges to donate a lot on the South end of the Park. Subscriptions were raised, and with the assistance of the Congregational Church Building Society the present building was erected in 1874 but not furnished for use until 1876. During the two years of its building, services were held in Hodges' Hall which occupied the site of the present Gillick Block. In 1873 the Church changed its name to harmonize with that of the town and was thereafter known as the First Congregational Church of Park Ridge.

Mr. Laird was succeeded as pastor by Mr. Webber who also preached at Des Plaines. From 1874 to 1885 the pulpit was filled by a number of pastors. The Rev. George Colman

came in 1886 and remained five years. During this pastorate The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was organized (1887). Mr. Colman was succeeded by Rev. C. S. Leeper in 1891. In 1894 steps were taken looking toward enlarging the Church building and otherwise improving the property; but the sudden death of the pastor put a stop to these plans. Rev. F. D. Burhans was the next pastor. He was a student in the Chicago Theological Seminary and was ordained in this church. From 1896 to 1912 the church was served by Dr. A. F. Sherrill, Rev. J. W. Welsh, Rev. B. F. Root, Rev. B. W. Burleigh, Rev. C. J. Sage, Rev. William H. Ziegler, Rev. W. C. Boyd.

It was after Mr. Boyd's resignation and while the church was discussing what should be the next move, that a suggestion, made by L. C. Dole, culminated in the next experiment in church union, the federation of the Methodist and Congregational churches. Mr. Dole's first proposition was that the two churches unite and form a union church; he had been talking with some of the Methodist brethren, and had found them like minded. In 1913, after many conferences between representatives of the two churches and with the officials of both denominations, with the assistance of the Chicago Co-operative Council of City Missions, a plan of federation was adopted. Each church was to retain its identity, merging its public worship and the activities of the constituent societies. Rev. J. L. Dickson was pastor of the Methodist Church at this time, and he became the unanimous choice of the Federated churches as their pastor.

This federation was in operation four years, the members of the two churches working together in the utmost harmony. Such was the interest shown, and such the growth of the churches and the affiliated societies that the need of a more commodious building began to be pressing. Several sites for a new church building were available, and it was necessary

to work out a plan for the ownership of the property which would be equitable to both churches, the manner of such holdings being essentially different in the two denominations. Although the board of directors and the pastor, Rev. Albertus Perry, worked hard upon the problem, no acceptable solution was found. The matter was finally brought to a crux by the pronouncement of Bishop Nicholson that "No funds belonging to a Methodist church can be used for the building of a federated or union church; and that, furthermore, according to the laws of the church, he, the bishop, must appoint a Methodist minister every year." The building of a church being, therefore, impossible, and plans for expansion at a standstill, dissolution of the federation became inevitable. At a meeting of the congregation of the federated churches held March twenty-ninth, 1917, resolutions were passed "regretting the necessity of dissolving the federation and asking that the board of directors handle the details of separation in such a way that the spirit of fellowship and goodwill existing between the two churches shall continue in the future as it has in the past." It was further resolved "That since we believe the cause of Christ in Park Ridge can best be served by the close affiliation of all the various Protestant believers in a single, local, self-governing group, we proceed to organize The Park Ridge Community Church." At another meeting held on April seventeenth a constitution and covenant were adopted and officers elected for the ensuing year. A little later Rev. J. R. Stead of Galva, Illinois, accepted the call to the pastorate. A man of deep spiritual insight and broad vision, Mr. Stead proved to be a wise leader. Great enthusiasm marked every phase of the work of the new organization. It was hoped that a community house might be erected very soon, but owing to our entrance into the World war, this hope was deferred to a more favorable time. Some needed repairs and alterations were made upon the existing building.

After about two years Mr. Stead's health became impaired, and Benjamin Baltzer, a student at the Chicago Theological Seminary, was engaged to assist him. This arrangement worked well for a time, but Mr. Stead was finally obliged to retire from the active ministry. The Rev. Noble Strong Elderkin was the next pastor. Dr. Elderkin did not take up his residence in Park Ridge, and Mr. Baltzer was retained as pastoral assistant. After a short but notable pastorate Dr. Elderkin accepted the call of a large Congregational church in Duluth, Minnesota.

Dr. Charles Clayton Morrison, the militant editor of the *Christian Century*, was the next pastor, Mr. Baltzer assisting. Dr. Morrison preached with great acceptability for two years; the church had, however, begun to feel the need of a resident pastor. Rev. O. F. Jordan, pastor of the Christian Church of Evanston, Illinois, was called in May, 1922. Under his able leadership the church has had a healthy growth. In 1924 plans began to be discussed for a Sunday school building to house the social and educational life of the church. The next year saw work on the new building started, and the cornerstone was laid on March first, 1925.

Community Church is the logical culmination of the many efforts through the years to attain church unity. It is independent, interdenominational and progressive. It sets up no arbitrary creed which must be subscribed to, but opens wide its arms to men and women of all faiths who believe in Jesus Christ and wish to work together in His name for a better community.

MARY M. PERKINS.

ART AND ARTISTS IN PARK RIDGE

Park Ridge has ever been a haven for artists. In the early part of the twentieth century quite a colony of artists and workers along artistic lines was formed.

For some time the Welles had the workshop of the famous Kalo shop in Park Ridge.

The Clutes, with their fine sense of hospitality, were a means of keeping this little colony in close sympathy. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Pattison for some years were with them. Mr. Paulding and Mr. and Mrs. Krehbiel were of that group and we are fortunate in having them with us still. The Albights and Leonard Crunelle, although in Edison Park, were so close at hand that they are considered of the group.

Mr. Ianelli is a much more recent addition.

SERIOUS AND FRIVOLOUS FACTS

Previous to 1900 our telephone exchange was over Stebbings' store, corner Prospect and Summitt avenues. Mrs. Russell was the operator. This was a toll station and if a person was called a messenger was dispatched to summon him. Dr. Woodworth had the first private telephone—his number was one (1).



DO YOU REMEMBER WAY BACK WHEN—

Emma Fricke (Mrs. Wilking) was one of the prettiest brides ever married in Community Church?

A cyclone on May 3, 1894, blew the roof off a building in the course of construction on Center street and killed a workman?

The George B. Carpenter family were the moving spirits in Park Ridge?

That land occupied by the Park Ridge Country Club was Robbs' Park and was an ideal place for picnics and outings of all sorts?

Norwood Park was called "Sand Ridge"?

C. E. Stebbings ran the "general" store?

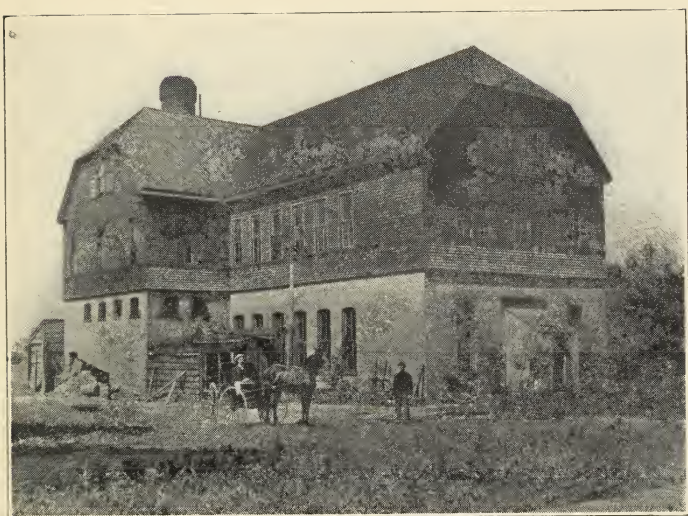
Mr. Rudolph Brunst was leader of the band?

ELECTRIC HALL

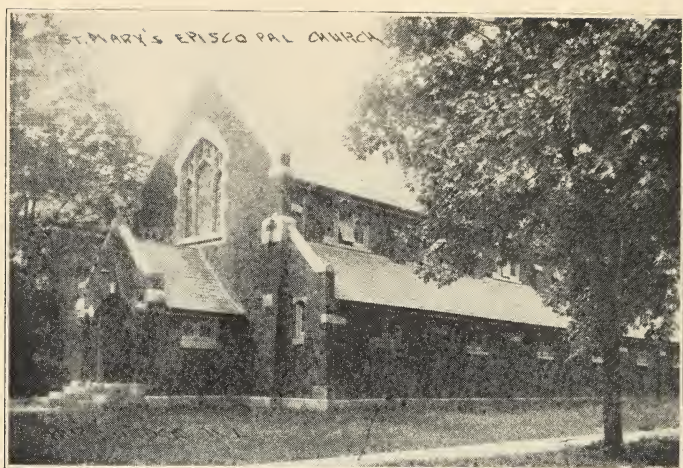
The lower floor of Electric Hall contained dynamos supplying electricity to Park Ridge, Edison Park, Norwood Park and Jefferson Park. The building was erected by Mr. Phillipson and the plant operated under his direction until he turned it over to Mr. Schiessle who in time sold it to the North Shore Electric Co. now merged into the Public Service Co. of Northern Illinois.

The upper floor was used for all large social festivities, public meetings and church services and as it was the only hall available at that time it was the scene of all large public gatherings.

In 1886 the estimated population of the towns lying along the Wisconsin division of the Northwestern, including Irving Park, Montrose, Jefferson Park, Norwood Park, Park Ridge and Des Plaines was 5,000.



Electric Hall—1899.



*St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Beautiful and dignified structure.
Southwest corner Prospect and Crescent Avenues.*



*St. Mary's Mission. For some years place of worship for those of
Episcopal faith of Park Ridge. First location northeast corner of
Prospect and Crescent Avenues.*

HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF PARK RIDGE

St. Mary's parish was organized as a mission in February, 1895. During the summer of 1890, the Rev. W. J. Richmond, of Irving Park, held occasional services at Park Ridge on Sunday afternoons, in the Congregational Church or at the school house.

The first regular services were held on Sunday, December 16, 1894, in "Electric hall," conducted by Mr. A. W. Doran of the Western Theological seminary. On the evening of December 23rd, a memorial service for little Dorothy Stanton was held, at which the Rev. John Rouse, of Trinity Church, Chicago, preached a sermon on "Sympathy" to quite a large congregation. Mr. Doran remained in charge until the end of January, 1895.

On the fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, the Rev. Joseph Rushton, general missionary, accompanied by the Rev. E. H. Clarke, visited Park Ridge. Mr. Rushton preached and Mr. Clarke celebrated the Holy Eucharist, the first held in Park Ridge. The congregation numbered forty-five, and six persons, two being men, made their communion. The Rev. E. H. Clarke was appointed priest-in-charge of the work. On Septuagesima Sunday, February 10, a Sunday school numbering twenty-three was organized. In the afternoon of the same day, the "Men's club" met at the residence of Mr. A. W. Penny and drew up an application to the bishop for organization as a mission. The Woman's guild was organized at an early date. Beginning with the Lenten season, the weekly Eucharist was begun and continued during the incumbency of the first priest-in-charge.

The Rev. Mr. Ochiai, a Japanese student at the Western seminary, took up the work in Park Ridge after Mr. Clarke's departure and succeeded in erecting the wooden building of the Park Ridge Episcopal mission, used until the completion of the present edifice. He had the good fortune to have at his disposal the services of many practical business men and a building committee headed by D. H. Martin found no difficulty in raising some \$800 for building purposes. Mr. A. W. Penny, together with his family, were not slow to respond, and the lease of a lot by Mr. Penny to the church smoothed away the difficult question of land purchase.

Mr. Ochiai departed for Japan and Mr. Hakes, then a student at the seminary, filled the vacancy in 1899. Soon after his ordination he accepted a call from Peoria. An interregnum of some seven months ensued, during which students and visiting priests conducted services. After this the Rev. H. C. Stone was in charge from January, 1901, to January, 1902. Mr. Stone lived a part of the time in Norwood Park, being unable to secure a suitable house in Park Ridge.

In 1906, the Rev. Marcus J. Brown, a deacon and formerly a minister of the Baptist church, was appointed to the charge of St. Mary's and also of St. Alban's, Norwood Park; but for lack of an available house in Park Ridge, he lived in Norwood Park a portion of the time. Mr. Brown was advanced to the priesthood while at Park Ridge. He severed his connection with the mission in 1908. A vacancy ensued during which time services were held by Mr. William H. Summers, the faithful lay reader of the mission. The next incumbent, the Reverend George Flavel Danforth, who coming to St. Mary's as a deacon in 1908, was advanced to the priesthood within the year. Spiritual and material progress marked the work of this devoted priest until his sad death which occurred in St. Luke's hospital, Chicago, on May 2, 1910,

following an operation which was thought at the time to be of a minor nature. This apparently untimely death of their priest came as a great shock to the faithful band and again the services of Mr. W. H. Summers, as lay-reader, were called into use.

The succeeding priest-in-charge, the Rev. Chas. David Atwell, came from Michigan. During his incumbency of St. Mary's mission, he baptized eighty-six and presented fifty-six for confirmation. He assumed charge on the first Sunday in November, 1910.

On the material side the mission has had a slow but steady growth from a very small beginning to the splendid equipment of the present. Services were at first held in an upper room over the electric light plant, while in the Rev. Mr. Ochiai's time, a small chapel was built upon a temporary foundation on land loaned for the purpose by the late Mr. Arthur W. Penny.

A few years later a lot on the southwest corner of Prospect and Crescent avenues was bought and the little church moved upon it, and a basement built and steam heater added. During the time that the Rev. G. F. Danforth was in charge, the present rectory was acquired. The rectory lot adjoins the church lot giving a frontage of 148 feet on Prospect avenue and a depth of 172 feet on Crescent avenue.

Then the plans for a new church were agitated.

The old church was moved to the rear of the property and was used as a parish house, being connected with the new church by a passage or cloister for a choir entrance.

The new church is modern Gothic in style, having a clerestory, which continues through and forms the chancel. A transept opens from the gospel side forming a Baptistry.

The chancel is spacious, being a third of the total length of the church in depth. From the Epistle side of the chancel a door leads to a well appointed working sacristy for the exclusive use of the Altar guild; and from the gospel side of the choir opens the organ chamber and also a door leading into the priests' sacristy, which is also well arranged for its proper use.

The cornerstone for this new church was laid in 1913.

The Rev. Charles D. Atwell closed his administration of the affairs of the parish and went to Nacogdoches, Texas, where his work has been most successful. He was succeeded by the Rev. C. A. Cummings, who served St. Mary's faithfully for over five years. During his incumbency, the financial affairs of the parish were much improved and a magnificent new altar and reredos were presented by Miss Penny in memory of Miss Mary A. Wilson. Prior to Miss Wilson's death she had presented the church with a splendid pipe organ in memory of Mr. Charles A. Penny.

In the summer of 1921, the priest in charge having tendered his resignation to the Bishop, prior to retiring from active service, a meeting of all communicants of the Mission was held and it was decided to organize a parish and to become entirely self-sustaining. This was done. After a careful canvass of the field of available candidates for rectorship, a call was extended to the Rev. Harry Lee Smith, assistant to Rev. George Craig Stewart, of St. Luke's, Evanston. Father Smith accepted the call in the early fall of 1921. During the interim before his coming, the services were conducted by Father Butler, now of St. John's, Irving Park.

Under the able leadership of Father Smith, the parish forged ahead by leaps and bounds and the service was beautified and completed by the addition of new vestments, etc.

In March, 1923, St. Mary's church decided that the time had come to build an adequate Parish house to care for the work of this parish.

In October of the same year the cornerstone was laid, attended by impressive services and in February, 1924, the parish house (the Mary E. Wilson house) was formally opened. It has been a decided asset to the community, being the first adequate building of this sort. The Rev. Harry Lee Smith having accepted a charge at Grace church, Oak Park. The Rev. R. Everett Carr, S. T. B., has accepted a call to St. Mary's parish and it is expected will be in charge about the middle of November of this year, 1926.



SERIOUS AND FRIVOLOUS FACTS

Miss Redfield, a teacher in the Park Ridge school about 1881 or 82, whose home was in Wheeling, rode to and from school on horseback.

At the time of the single track railroad a train left Chicago about 3:30 in the afternoon and was due at Park Ridge around 4 o'clock. One snowy Sunday a party of people left Chicago, and on account of the drifts on the tracks instead of arriving at 4 o'clock they arrived at Park Ridge at 6:30 o'clock the following morning (Monday), although they had two engines on the train.

Mrs. McNally came to Park Ridge about 1880, when the grocery boy came to her back door on her first morning in this little community she ordered bread. "Land, we don't have bread, everybody bakes their own," answered the grocery boy. "Whatever am I going to do?" asked Mrs. McNally, city bred and very strange and lonely in this community.

"Well, I just expect you'll have to make a pan of biscuits," advised the boy. And make a pan of biscuits she did, and although she didn't believe she would live here more than a year, she still is here, and her daughter and granddaughter and great grandson!

When Community Church was being built many who could not contribute money contributed labor, and Mr. A. J. Whitcomb and Mr. George Clark did much toward its construction. When it came to the pillars supporting the entrance, Mr. Clark put up the one and Mr. Whitcomb the other.

COMPETITIVE DRILL IN 1902

PARK RIDGE CADETS

On the evening of May 18, 1902, the parents and friends of the Park Ridge Cadets assembled to witness a competitive drill of the Park Ridge Cadets, held in Wannewetsch Hall.

The judges were Percy B. Coffin, Captain Company A, 1st Regiment, I. N. G., and Colonel T. C. Stanton of Chicago, a former resident of Park Ridge.

The first surprise was when the smallest as well as the youngest cadet won the medal. The boy was none other than Charles Lawrence Stebbings, now in the employ of the government in Park Ridge's new postoffice. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. T. Stebbings on Vine avenue, residents of Park Ridge for more than forty years.

The second surprise was when Wm. E. Slosson presented commander Captain Stanley H. Holbrook with an engraved sword — from the citizens of Park Ridge — also an envelope containing forty one-dollar bills.

In the troubled times of the Civil War, the town responded nobly to the call for volunteers. A complete list of those who went to defend their flag is not available; but it is understood to be very large in proportion to the size of the town.

During the world war also was the response great and for that period of necessity, the foremost thought of our men and women was service.

Our young men went into their country's service; many of them went to France—some made the supreme sacrifice. Our women carried on Red Cross and Belgian Relief work and everyone helped put over the Liberty loan.

It has been since the signing of the armistice that our town has nearly tripled its population. Many young people waiting for settled conditions to bring their children to a healthy suburb and the congestion in Chicago and the deep-rooted desire for a real home have been basic reasons for the tremendous growth of Park Ridge in the last decade.

Park Ridge is a haven for those seeking better living conditions for themselves and their families. Back in the pioneer days people came from over the ocean to escape oppression and seek content in our fulsome prairies. They came from the east to experience the joys—and hardships of a newly settled country and they are bringing their children today to build a home away from the smoke and turmoil of the large metropolis.



Why We Come to Park Ridge to Live.

75502

